'Chedeng' cuts through North, Central Luzon; 7 killed

Story below, Col. 2

'Terrorists in robes?'

FROM HOODLUM TO TERRORIST !

By Carlito Pablo

THE ALLEGED corruption in the judiciary has been a perennial complaint among litigants in the Philippines. Yesterday, it was the turn of presidential associate Dante Ang to lash out at what he called "terrorists in robes."

TERRORISTS/ A20

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- **BSP sees peso at 52-53 to $1**
  BUSINESS /B1
- **4 new SARS deaths reported in Taiwan**
  WORLD/ A12
- **4 GIs killed in Iraq**
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Wednesday, May 28, 2003 ★★ 62 pages / 5 sections / vol. 18 / no. 169 P15

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After 36 hours, hope dims for 30 still missing

By Luige del Puerto

HOPE dimmed yesterday for relatives of missing passengers of the ill-fated MV San Nicolas as search boats again called off operations due to bad weather.

An official privy to the search and rescue operations said it was unlikely that survivors could still be found. "I don't want to tell this to the families. But in search and rescue operations, the chance of survival is slim past 36 hours," he said.

People floating in cold waters for more than 36 hours eventually succumb to hypothermia, the official said.

The Philippine Coast Guard said that based on testimonies of relatives, around 30 people were still missing. This means that the death toll in the collision between the wooden-hulled San Nicolas and the steel-hulled Super Ferry 12 on Sunday on Manila Bay could still rise.

At least 25 people—all of them passengers of the San Nicolas—have so far died in the accident, and 182 others have survived.

Three days after the sinking of the San Nicolas, the mood at Coast Guard headquarters in Manila was grim.

On Monday, search teams

AFTER/ A20

Officer axed even before probe starts

By Luige del Puerto

A COAST Guard officer got the axe yesterday, even before the investigation of the collision between two passenger ferries in Manila Bay could start.

Romeo Magallado, station commander in Coron town in western Palawan, from where the ill-fated MV San Nicolas left for Manila, was relieved less than 48 hours after President Macapagal-Arroyo warned that "heads will roll."

The President called the collision between the San Nicolas and Super Ferry 12 "another black eye in maritime safety" and told authorities to enforce navigation rules. The accident claimed the lives of 25 people, all passengers of the wooden-hulled San Nicolas.

Vice Admiral Reuben Lista, chief of the Coast Guard, said he sacked Magallado because the San Nicolas had at least 12 people not listed in its manifest.

OFFICER/ A20

US pouring money, guns into Mindanao

LOVELY weather for ducks and kids on vacation for the summer that's been rained out before they could have enough of it. Still, the waist-high floods of Malabon provide an instant swimming pool, and relief from the long, hot out-of-school season. And the kids lap it up. JOAN BONDOC

RP gets $356-M security assistance

By Carlito Pablo

THE UNITED States has committed a "minimum" of $356 million in security-related assistance to the Philippines—the largest military aid package the country has received since the US bases shut down in 1992.

Much of the assistance, worth about P18.7 billion at the current exchange rate, is destined for parts of Mindanao, where government troops are battling both Moro separatist rebels and Abu Sayyaf bandits.

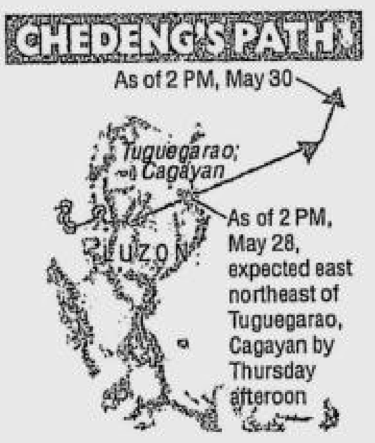
"We are getting this $356 million without US bases simply because of the respect of the United States for our long and proud partnership, our fight against terror and the greatness of the Filipino worker, including the Filipino soldier," President Macapagal-Arroyo told Navy officials yesterday.

The President waited until the Navy's 105th anniversary rites, two days after returning from her state visit to the United States, to reveal the total amount of the aid package she had been expected to receive as a leading member of the US-led coalition of the willing.

The aid includes $47 million to fund the Balikatan 03-1 training exercises in Sulu later this year, $20 million next year to promote the "peace process" with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, $20 million for rebel returnee pro-

US POURING/ A19

'Chedeng' slices through Luzon; 7 killed


CHEDENG'S PATH
As of 2 PM, May 30
Tuguegarao; Cagayan
LUZON
As of 2 PM, May 28, expected east northeast of Tuguegarao, Cagayan by Thursday afteroon

SEVEN people, including an 8-month-old boy and four other children, were killed as tropical storm "Chedeng" brought heavy rains over Metro Manila and roared through Central and Northern Luzon.

The weather bureau said Chedeng (international code name: Linfa) slammed into the Lingayen Gulf before dawn yesterday and picked up strength as it tore inland into Luzon with peak winds of 105 kph and hurricane-force gusts of 130 kph. The rains caused landslides, uprooted trees and produced widespread flooding.

In Manila, President Macapagal-Arroyo shut down government offices at noon and ordered city officials to deploy trucks to help thousands of stranded commuters get home.

Police identified the dead baby as Jefferson Llagas, who was buried in mud in a landslide at about 9 a.m. Sunday in Sitio Hapay na Mangga, Barangay Dolores, Taytay, Rizal. His 2-year-old sister Angelica died at past 1 a.m. yesterday at the St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) in Quezon City.

Their mother Imelda, 21, and 8-year-old neighbor and playmate Angelo Calingan were badly injured.

SPO1 Jose Gripal of the Taytay municipal police station said the landslide buried two houses, including the Llagas residence, and partially destroyed two others.

Gripal said the Llagas siblings were apparently asleep when the landslide occurred. "The other victims were lucky because they

'CHEDENG'/ A20

SC affirms death penalty for 7 Moro kidnappers

By Philip Tubeza

A SUPREME Court decision late last month came down hard on the so-called lost commands terrorizing parts of Mindanao.

The high court upheld the death penalty meted out to seven men convicted of kidnapping five people in 1996, according to court records made public yesterday. The seven were ex-members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front, who claimed the abduction was a political act.

The Supreme Court upheld the lower court ruling sentencing Abdila Silongan, Macapagal Silongan, Akdal Awal, Rolly Lamalan, Sacaria Alon, Jumbrah Manap and Ramon Pasaliwan to the lethal injection chamber.

Renegade Moro rebels called "lost commands" often carry out kidnappings for ransom in strife-torn Mindanao provinces, targeting businessmen, missionaries and foreigners.

"The prosecution has established beyond reasonable doubt that the kidnapping was committed for the purpose of extorting ransom ... as to warrant the mandatory imposition of the death penalty," the high court said.

The Supreme Court rejected the convicts' appeal that the crime committed was politically motivated since they were rebel returnees.

SC AFFIRMS/ A4

Luck spares RP from catastrophe

THE PACIFIC "Ring of Fire" yesterday roared to life as powerful earthquakes rocked southern Philippines, northern Japan and northeastern Indonesia. Minor temblors also jolted Taiwan and the US West Coast.

Unlike the devastating earthquake that killed thousands in Algeria, however, the series of potentially disastrous quakes in the Philippines and Japan left hardly a scratch. No deaths or injuries were reported in Taiwan and northern California. A boy was killed and 100 homes were destroyed, however, in Indonesia.

An undersea earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.6, slightly weaker than the 6.8-magnitude earthquake in Algeria, struck at 7:13 a.m. in the Moro Gulf, about 114 km southwest of Cotabato City.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, however, said the epicenter was 544 km deep in the earth's crust. A 6.6-magnitude earthquake from a shallow depth would have caused widespread damage.

On Aug. 17, 1976, a 7.9-magnitude earthquake in the Moro Gulf caused the sea to swell and sent three giant waves traveling

LUCK/ A21

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JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

PAINFUL loss reaps awards for Inquirer writers on Monday. Junior Inquirer (JI) was adjudged the past year's outstanding children's newspaper. From left, PDI Classified-Marketing AVP Donald Lim, Cathy Babao-Guballa, Natasha Vizcarra, JI editor; Francisco Dipasupil Barros and PDI publisher Isagani Yambot.

PDI sweeps child-friendly paper awards

By Eline Santos

THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer has been named Child-Friendly Newspaper of the Year, national broadsheet category, by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the Philippine Press Institute (PPI).

The weekly Junior Inquirer (JI) was named Outstanding Children's Newspaper of the Year at the second Unicef-PPI Child-Friendly Newspaper and Journalist Awards in a ceremony held Monday at the Century Park Hotel. It was the second consecutive award from the

PDI/ A19

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The southern part of Northern Luzon and the northern part of Central Luzon will experience stormy weather and the coastal waters will be rough to very rough. The rest of Northern and Central Luzon will have rains and occasional gusty winds.. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/28/03

Metro Manila	Monsoon Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Monsoon Rains
Baguio	Stormy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Stormy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Monsoon Rains	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

PEA-Amari deal refuses to die

By Philip C. Tubeza

AN INVESTOR company in the controversial Public Estates Authority-Amari land reclamation project in Manila Bay asked the Supreme Court yesterday to set aside its May 6 en banc resolution annulling with finality the contract for the project.

Prime Orion Philippines Inc. filed a "motion for leave to admit motion for reconsideration" before the high court yesterday, which was the deadline for filing such a motion.

Prime Orion quoted in its petition the dissenting opinions of SC Justices Consuelo Ynares-Santiago and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, which it asked the SC to adopt as the "main opinion" in the case.

It said the SC did not consider the economic repercussions of the ruling "at a time when (the Philippines) is in desperate need of investments."

It described Prime Orion as a publicly listed company with both foreign and local shareholders who "poured money into the investment under the presumption that the government will fulfill its end of the bargain considering its representation and pronouncements."

Prime Orion said the SC decision "adversely affects other projects of a similar nature to the prejudice of the investing public."

The company quoted Sandoval-Gutierrez's dissenting opinion which noted the probable effects of the ruling on other planned or ongoing reclamation projects.

Sandoval-Gutierrez said the majority opinion did not only strike down the joint venture agreement between Amari and PEA but would also adversely affect or nullify all other reclamation agreements in the country.

"I doubt if government financial institutions . . . would risk a major portion of their funds in a problem-filled and highly speculative venture, like reclamation of land still submerged under the water," the SC justice said.

LDP party rift worsens

By Volt Contreras

THE RIFT continues to widen in the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino with the party's president, Sen. Edgardo Angara, snubbing for the third time a meeting to ostensibly choose the party's presidential candidate for 2004.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said the meeting that had been scheduled for tonight was canceled because Angara had sent word through Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino that "he won't be available until (the) middle of June."

Padilla said this was the third time a party meeting had been put off because of Angara's unavailability.

Angara was similarly unavailable on May 6 and May 14, the last two scheduled dates for the meeting, he said.

Sought for comment, Angara, who started out denying that there was a scheduled meeting yesterday, said a meeting might take place either at the end or the middle of June.

Oft-postponed

The oft-postponed meeting is being sought by the LDP's House contingent led by Padilla "to address perceptions that we are divided," the Nueva Ecija congressman said in an interview yesterday.

He said the meeting was to have discussed the process by which the party would arrive at its choice of a presidential candidate for 2004.

Cracks began to appear in the LDP following the public endorsement last month by some of its members of Sen. Panfilo Lacson as the presidential candidate of a so-called "united opposition" in 2004.

Angara's choice

Angara earlier this month declared that businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco was his choice as the opposition's standard bearer.

Padilla, who belongs to the pro-Lacson camp in the LDP, yesterday maintained that he was backing the ex-national police chief only in his "individual capacity."

"Without this meeting, we might end up not with a collective commitment (in the choice of a presidential bet) but with just individual commitments," he said.

"We might all just end up going our own way," he warned in Filipino.

Rep. Constantino Jaruala said many of the party's representatives want an informal meeting with Angara before Congress adjourns next week.

He said they want the party to "make plans" before Congress reopens in July, as well as discuss the differences that some of the congressmen may have with Angara.

He said that during a meeting of LDP congressmen last week, it was the consensus that the differences in the party were too small to divide them.

"Part of the agreement was for us to stick together," Jaruala said. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

Injured seamen's kin flying to Florida

By Blanche S. Rivera

RELATIVES of the seven Filipino seamen who were injured in a cruise liner explosion and fire on Sunday in Miami, Florida, will be flown to their hospital bedsides this week.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, citing a report by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa), said the CF Sharp Group of Companies and Magsaysay Lines were working on the travel papers of the relatives of the Filipinos who were seriously hurt when the boiler of the SS Norway blew up.

CF Sharp supplies the crews that run the ship, while Magsaysay Lines supplies its service workers like waiters, cooks and housekeepers.

Sto. Tomas said CF Sharp was arranging for the passports and US visas of Rizalyn and Susana Bautista, wife and sister, respectively, of assistant reefer engineer Mari John Bautista, and Susana and Victoria Villarais, sisters of stoker Ramon Villarais.

Sto. Tomas said the two seamen had been assigned to the boiler room where the explosion occurred. She said they suffered third-degree burns in 85 percent of their bodies.

Magsaysay Lines could not be contacted to verify what steps it was taking to bring the relatives of the five other crewmen, which it had supplied to the ship, to Florida.

Facilitate visas

CF Sharp said it has contacted the ship's Norwegian principal, who informed the agency that it had advised the US Embassy in Manila of the intent to bring the relatives to Florida, thus facilitating the issuance of US visas to them.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople yesterday instructed the Philippine embassy in Washington to help the families of the four Filipino seamen who perished in the Norway explosion.

Before flying to Tehran for the 30th Foreign Ministers Meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Ople also instructed the embassy in Washington to assist "all Filipinos on the cruise liner, including those who were not hurt, should they need assistance," said Assistant Secretary Victoriano Lecaros, DFA spokesperson.

Lecaros said the DFA will also help the families of the dead seafarers should they decide they want to go to the US to pick up the bodies of their loved ones.

Sto. Tomas said the remains are to be repatriated next week after autopsy.

The dead were third engineer Ricardo Rosal, 51; stokers Ramil Bernal, 26, and Candido Valenzuela, 50, and oiler Rene Villanueva, 28.

The injured seamen who were deployed by Magsaysay Lines were identified as cooks Abdi Comedia and Rolando Tejero, and utility men Raymond Lovino, Paul Peralta and Ronald Marcelino.

Preliminary reports reaching the Department of Foreign Affairs said the explosion was not linked to terrorism. Seamen interviewed said they heard a hissing sound coming from the boiler before it exploded. The ship was in port after finishing a Caribbean cruise. No passengers were hurt. *With Norman Bordadora*

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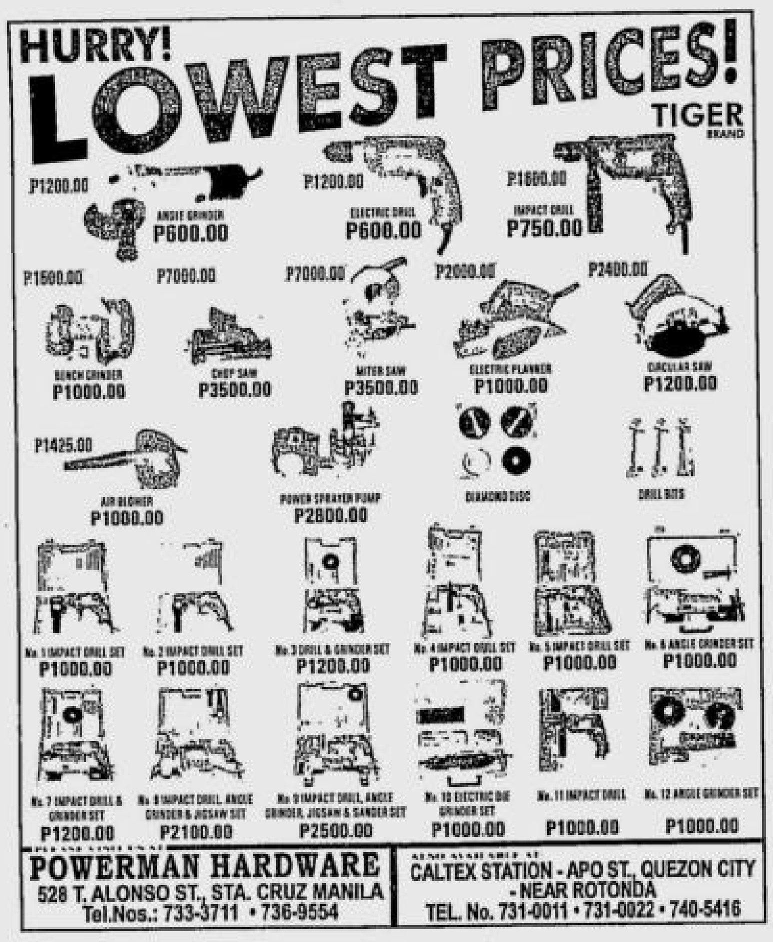
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Nene raps 'dagdag-bawas' in refugee figures

OPPOSITION Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. has accused Malacañang of engaging in "dagdag-bawas" to cover up its mistake when it ordered the military offensive in Mindanao that has made refugees of thousands of civilians there.

The term "dagdag-bawas" was originally coined to describe vote-padding or shaving in elections.

In this context, Pimentel said the Macapagal administration has resorted to "dagdag-bawas" with Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao's assertion over the weekend that there were only 3,500 civilian evacuees from the Mindanao conflict, rather than the 318,000 displaced persons the senator had earlier claimed.

On Monday, Pimentel said the actual number of refugees was 350,000 and not 318,000.

The "dagdag-bawas" was meant to hide (the Palace's) blunder when it ordered the bombing of so-called terrorist cells supposedly embedded in civilian communities," he said.

Pimentel said the 350,000 figure was the unofficial estimate of Mindanao-based non-government organizations monitoring the movement of evacuees in Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Norte, Maguindanao and North Cotabato, and the wire agency MindaNews.

The new figure, he said, was the "cumulative number" of evacuees since the military offensive started in February this year at the Buliok complex in the Liguasan marsh.

"MindaNews, quoting sources in Mindanao, reported it. Even Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman confirmed that 318,000 people have been displaced by the Mindanao war. So that's no longer in question," Pimentel said.

On Sunday, Tiglao refuted Pimentel's figures, saying the senator may have confused them with the total number of civilians who had been in and out of evacuation centers since the start of the year.

But Pimentel, a Mindanaoan, said it was Tiglao who had committed a mistake.

"Somebody is using 'dagdag-bawas' tactics on the evacuee figures. What is certain is that thousands have been displaced by the Mindanao war," he said in a statement. *Michael Lim Ubac*

Sharing a meter? No problem, you'll still get Meralco refund

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission said yesterday it has agreed to a Manila Electric Co. proposal to ask local government units for help in identifying refund beneficiaries in cases of "shared meters."

ERC chair Manuel Sanchez said Meralco—which on June 3 will begin refunding customers for overcharges it made since 1994, was concerned over the confusion that may occur in cases where several households share one electric meter and divide the monthly bill.

"It is expected that those who contribute would want to get a share of the refund," Sanchez said .

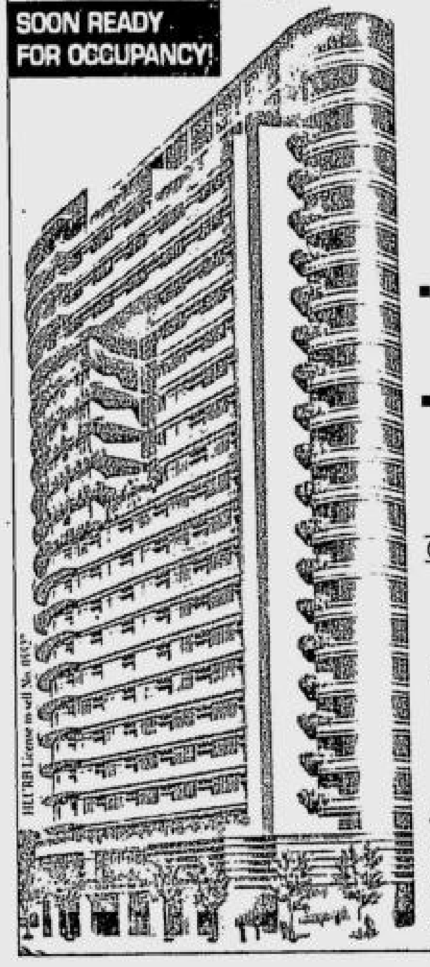
Meralco president Jesus Francisco said the utility had asked the ERC to allow it to give the refund only to the people under whose names the monthly bills appear.

Sanchez said the ERC had also raised the issue of Meralco's paying interest on the P30 billion in overcharges, but the firm's position was that the Supreme Court ruling ordering it to pay the refund was silent on this.

"For our part, we cannot take any action unless somebody files a petition on the matter before the ERC," Sanchez said.

He also said the ERC would be issuing a separate order for the second phase of the refund plan within the week.

Sanchez said that while the ERC would prefer that Phase 2 cover customers using from 101 kilowatt hours to 300 kWh a month against Meralco's proposed range of 101 kWh to 200 kWh, "we also have to be realistic and consider (the firm's) financial situation." *Ronniel W. Domingo with a report from Agnes R. Donato.*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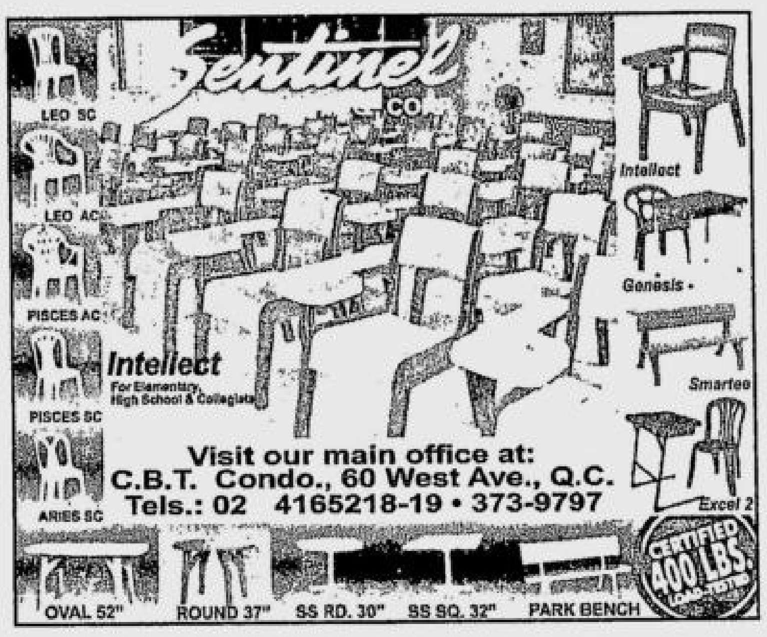
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Amoxicillin drops 125 mg/1.25 ml/10 ml	✓	37.00	80.75	43.75/bot
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	49.00	144.00	95.00/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓	3.40	37.75	34.35/cap
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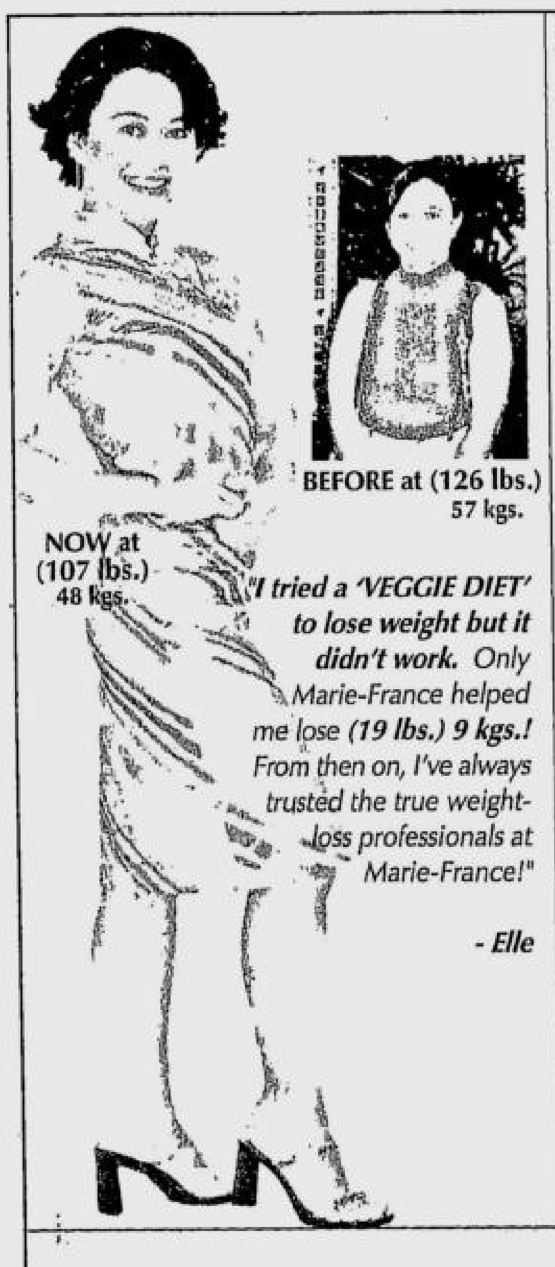
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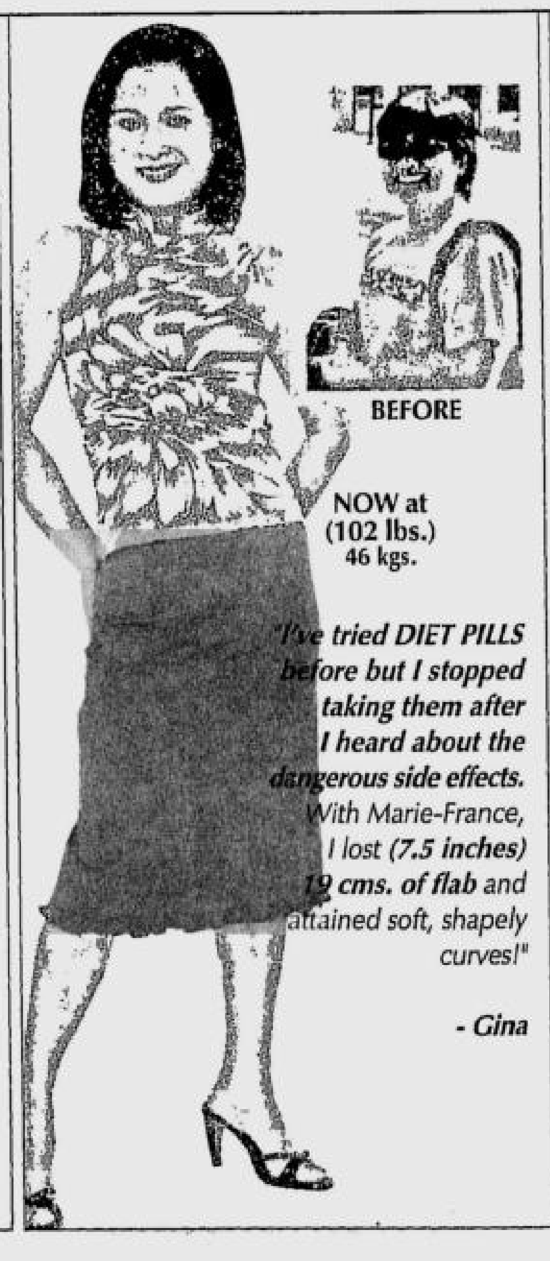
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SC affirms death penalty

From page A1

"The political motivation for the crime must be shown in order to justify finding the crime committed to be rebellion. Merely because it is alleged that appellants are members of the MILF or of the MNLF does not necessarily mean that the crime of kidnapping was committed in furtherance of a rebellion," the court said.

"Here, the evidence adduced is insufficient for a finding that the crime committed was politically motivated. Neither have the appellants sufficiently proven their allegation that the present case was filed against them because they are rebel surrenderees," it added.

Court records showed the seven were former separatists who abducted businessman Alexander Saldana and four of his companions in Sultan Kudarat City in 1996.

Two of the five victims escaped while the rest were subsequently released to the military after negotiations for ransom failed.

The court said it gave weight to a testimony by Saldana identifying the accused and giving precise details of the crime. "There can be no question, therefore, that the appellants committed the crime," it said.

The Supreme Court rejected the appeal in an en banc decision on April 24. It also ordered the death convicts to pay victims Saldaña and Rejuso nominal damages of P50,000 each and moral damages of P100,000 and P50,000 respectively.

"Three justices of the court maintain that RA 7659 [the death penalty for heinous crimes law] is unconstitutional insofar as it prescribes the death penalty; nevertheless, they submit to the ruling of the majority that the death penalty can be lawfully imposed in the case at bar," the Court said in a 21-page decision.

The Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 103 sentenced the accused to death on Jan. 18, 1999. The case was transferred to Quezon City upon the request of the Department of Justice.

The authorities are still looking for 59 others who helped detain the victims in the mountains of Central Mindanao.

March abduction

The case stemmed from the kidnapping of Saldaña, Rejuso and three others on the evening of March 16, 1996 at Sitio Kamangga, Barangay Laguilayan, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat.

The businessman and his companions were to meet Macapagal Silongan, alias Commander Lambada, to talk about the "gold nuggets" Silongan was reportedly selling.

But Silongan postponed the meeting, claiming that a relative of his had died and that he had to fetch an elder brother in Cotabato City.

After they returned from Cotabato City, the deal had to be postponed again because the "funeral arrangements" had not yet been completed.

Saldaña's group was able to leave only at around 7:30 p.m. with Silongan inside their vehicle. When they got near the highway, the suspect told the driver to slow down while Silongan talked to somebody in Maguindanaoan over the radio.

Suddenly, 15 armed men appeared and ordered the victims to get out of the vehicle. They were then hogtied and blindfolded.

Saldana later identified Lamalan, Awal, and Abdila Silongan as among the armed men.

The four victims were taken to a mountain hideout in Maganoy, Maguindanao where Salik Karem, Hadji Kutang Omar alias Commander Palito, and Jumbrah Manap met them.

The three men originally demanded P15 million in ransom, but eventually lowered the amount to P12 million.

Victim's wife

The armed men forced Saldaña to write a letter to his wife, Carmelita, for her to pay the ransom.

When she decided not to pay, Rejuso was sent to renegotiate with her. But still, Saldaña's wife refused.

The victims were transferred from one hideout to another and once, at a river hideout of a certain Commander Kugta, Saldaña saw Macapagal Silongan together with Manap.

The convict would later explain that he was trying to obtain the victims' release.

Saldaña was later brought to the lair of a certain Mayangkang Saguile in Maitum, Kabuntalan, Maguindanao.

He stayed there for five months and was guarded by, among others, Macapagal and Abdila Silongan and by Awal.

On September 26, 1996, Mayangkang released Saldaña to the military in exchange for a relative who was caught delivering a ransom note to the victim's family. *With a report from AFP*

Illegal recruitment case vs Egyptian unearthed

DAVAO CITY—The Egyptian Islamic missionary arrested in Cagayan de Oro City on Sunday had already been detained in this city three years ago, on illegal recruitment charges.

But the case brought against Diaa El Deen Mahmuod al-Gabri, a native of Egypt who ran a recruitment agency here, was eventually dismissed for insufficiency of evidence.

Al Gabri and his Filipina wife Marietta were the owners of Azarock Manpower Pooling Services.

On Feb. 11, 2000, members of the now-defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) arrested the couple in an entrapment operation.

But the couple maintained that their agency was not engaged in hiring workers overseas but only for local employment.

The police and military are now looking into Al-Gabri's possible links with the al-Qaida terrorist network.

Meanwhile, six Moro separatist guerrillas were killed in an overnight clash with government forces, the military said Tuesday.

A soldier was wounded in the firefight, Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko said.

The latest encounter gave even more import to Foreign Secretary Blas Ople's unprecedented participation in the annual meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference, which begins tomorrow in Tehran, Iran. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau; with a report from Norman Bordadora*

STOP SARS ATTACK

DOH OFFICIAL ADVISORY

WEDNESDAY 28 May 2003

SARS AND THE RAINY SEASON: IS THERE A CONNECTION?

The rainy season is here. During this season, the air becomes humid and sticky. People tend to share more and this, more often than not, becomes a very easy way for viruses, including the common cold and SARS viruses, to spread from person to person. Suddenly, people are brought together in waiting sheds because of a sudden downpour, or strangers share umbrellas.

At this time, one should take precautionary measures to prevent getting infections or stop the spread of infections. Personal hygiene practices such as covering one's mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, frequent handwashing, keeping one;s hand away from one's face, are some behaviors that can help in minimizing, if not totally stop, the spread of these diseases.

Question.

How serious is SARS? Is it true that many fatalities come from the elderly? I'm a health worker from Laguna.

Answer.

Severity from SARS varies from mild to severe illness and depending on the quality of medical care available. Majority of the cases have remained well while some of the cases develop mild, febrile (feverish) illness and have not developed respiratory signs and symptoms. About 10% of SARS cases had severe respiratory symptoms that required breathing support.

At present, the death rate is approximately 6% or six in 100 cases. Many of the deaths have been among the elderly, but fatalities have also included an otherwise healthy 37-year-old man in Hong Kong and people in their mid-60's. Moreover, health officials are becoming particularly concerned about a jump in the number of young people infected.

Reported SARS cases in the Country
(March 17 - May 27, 2003)

SARS suspects:	
total cumulative admission	86
total discharged	83
presently admitted (May 27, 2003)	2
SARS cases	12
SARS deaths	2
SARS Recovered/Cured	10

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- FOR - creating the opportunity to provide new jobs for 30,000 to 50,000 Filipinos and their families here and abroad;
- FOR - securing an additional U.S. $460.6 Million, of which U.S. $ 33.6 Million has been earmarked not only to complete government's obligations to former Filipino Muslim rebels under the peace pact but, more importantly, to aid in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of war-blighted families and communities in Mindanao;
- FOR - winning and deserving investor confidence, and generating U.S. $ 1.162 Billion more in new private sector investments.

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- FOR - of more importance than any financial assistance package, your outstanding fortitude in the face of criticism has redeemed international faith in the Filipino's ability to defend peace and freedom;
- FOR - of more radiance than dazzling pomp and pageantry, your superb moral courage has made the world a safer place for our children and our children's children, and the rest of mankind;
- FOR - of more inspiration than any stirring political rhetoric, your unremitting strength of character and commendable work ethic is restoring to the Filipino his sense of dignity, honor, pride and self-worth;
- FOR - of more value than glowing public praise, you have given us all the priceless gifts of faith in ourselves and hope for our future;
- FOR - our nation needs a faithful Ina ng Bayan to bind each wound, heal pain, sustain lives and nourish dreams;
- FOR - our people require a steadfast leader ordained by GOD, with the strongest amalgam of audacious mind, pure heart and clear conscience;
- FOR - our children must have a trustworthy nurturer who will not only rush to meet the requirements of the hour, but continue to labor for the demands of our future.

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First Couple's lawyer detests comparison to Tom Cruise film

By Carlito Pablo

LAWYER Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza, known to be the private counsel of the First Couple, does not relish media references to his Villaraza and Angangco law office as "The Firm."

The appellation derives from author John Grisham's 1991 legal classic "The Firm" that was made into a Hollywood blockbuster starring Tom Cruise.

Villaraza said the use of the term to refer to his law office seeks to "impute that Villaraza and Angangco is like the law firm subject of the popular movie of the same name, which was connected to criminals and engaged in illegal activities."

Grisham's book and the movie dealt with a crooked and powerful law firm that was unmasked by an idealistic new recruit to the company.

Villaraza made known his displeasure with the use of the term in a libel suit he filed against Niñez Cacho-Olivares, publisher and editor in chief of The Daily Tribune newspaper.

The complaint for 11 counts of libel filed in Makati on May 23 was actually the second that Villaraza had lodged against Olivares. He had filed a complaint for 11 counts of libel on May 14.

The two cases stemmed from news articles and opinion pieces in the Tribune that dealt with a taped conversation in which Villaraza allegedly attempted to extort $20 million from the German firm Fraport AG.

Villaraza's reference to the term "The Firm" was an aside in the complaint, although the law office has been referred as such in other newspaper reports, not just in the Tribune.

The Villaraza and Angangco law office is also described in those terms in legal circles, though only in whispers.

Villaraza lamented that the Tribune continued to harp on the taped conversation, even though Olivares herself had admitted it had been illegally recorded, and even after Fraport lawyer Dietrich Stiller himself had cleared Villaraza.

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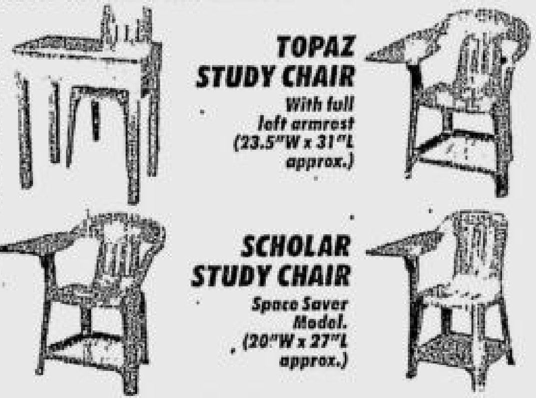

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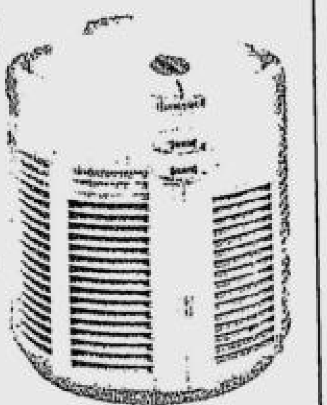

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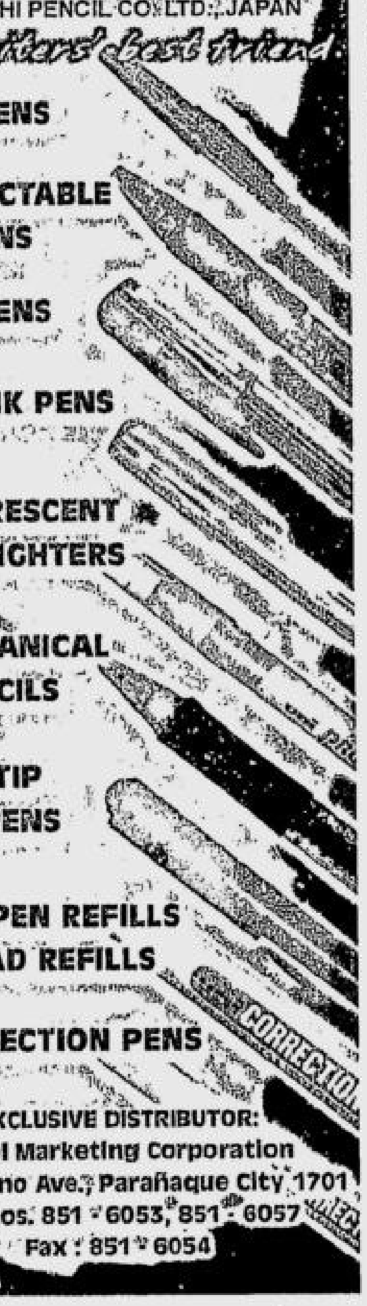

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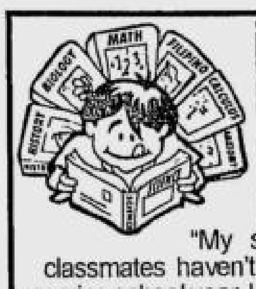

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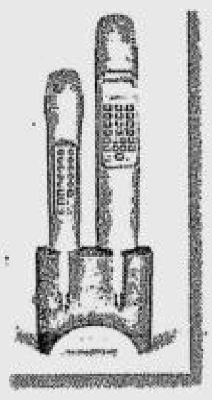

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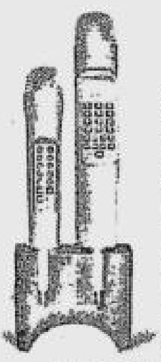

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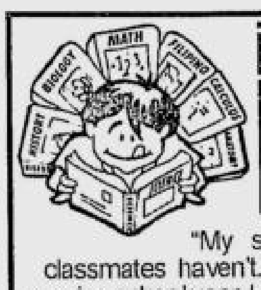

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Bottom of the sea

EDITORIAL

WHAT could go down as the understatement of the year was spoken by President Macapagal-Arroyo when she said Monday that the collision between MV San Nicholas and Super Ferry 12 "annoys me." That accident was more than just an annoyance. It was a tragedy that deserved to be met with outrage as the President herself showed when she ordered maritime authorities to "pinpoint responsibility and mete out the necessary sanctions" on those responsible for it.

The collision, which happened at around 11 a.m. Sunday off the coast of Cavite near Limbones Island, left 25 people dead. The number of fatalities is probably more, although Vice Adm. Ruben Lista, commander of the Philippine Coast Guard, said he did not expect the death toll to rise. But that is more of a wish than a realistic assessment. For how could Lista and the Coast Guard be certain that no more dead bodies will be found floating on Manila Bay or the South China Sea when they don't even know how many passengers and crew members were aboard San Nicolas? The manifest listed 168 passengers and 25 crew members. But so far, 25 persons have turned up dead and 203 have been plucked out of the sea. A mother, who lost a daughter in the tragedy, and at least three others have not been found among the quick and the dead. Who knows how many more are missing? Certainly not Lista and the Coast Guard, although that is their responsibility to know.

In fact, the tragedy could have been much worse. Some of the survivors said that even as early as the night before, huge waves were already battering the wooden vessel. At one point, it seemed as if the ship would just flip over, and so they grabbed life vests and hung on to them. Guess who cleared the small ship to sail out into the stormy sea? That's another oversight the Coast Guard cannot pass on to anybody.

As in any man-made tragedy, the finger-pointing began almost as soon as the San Nicolas sank. Lista suggested that the two ships could have disregarded the basic maritime rule of "giving each other enough room to maneuver." But isn't that obvious? When there's a collision—between cars, planes, ships or anything—it is very clear they ran out of room. The only question left is, whose fault was it?

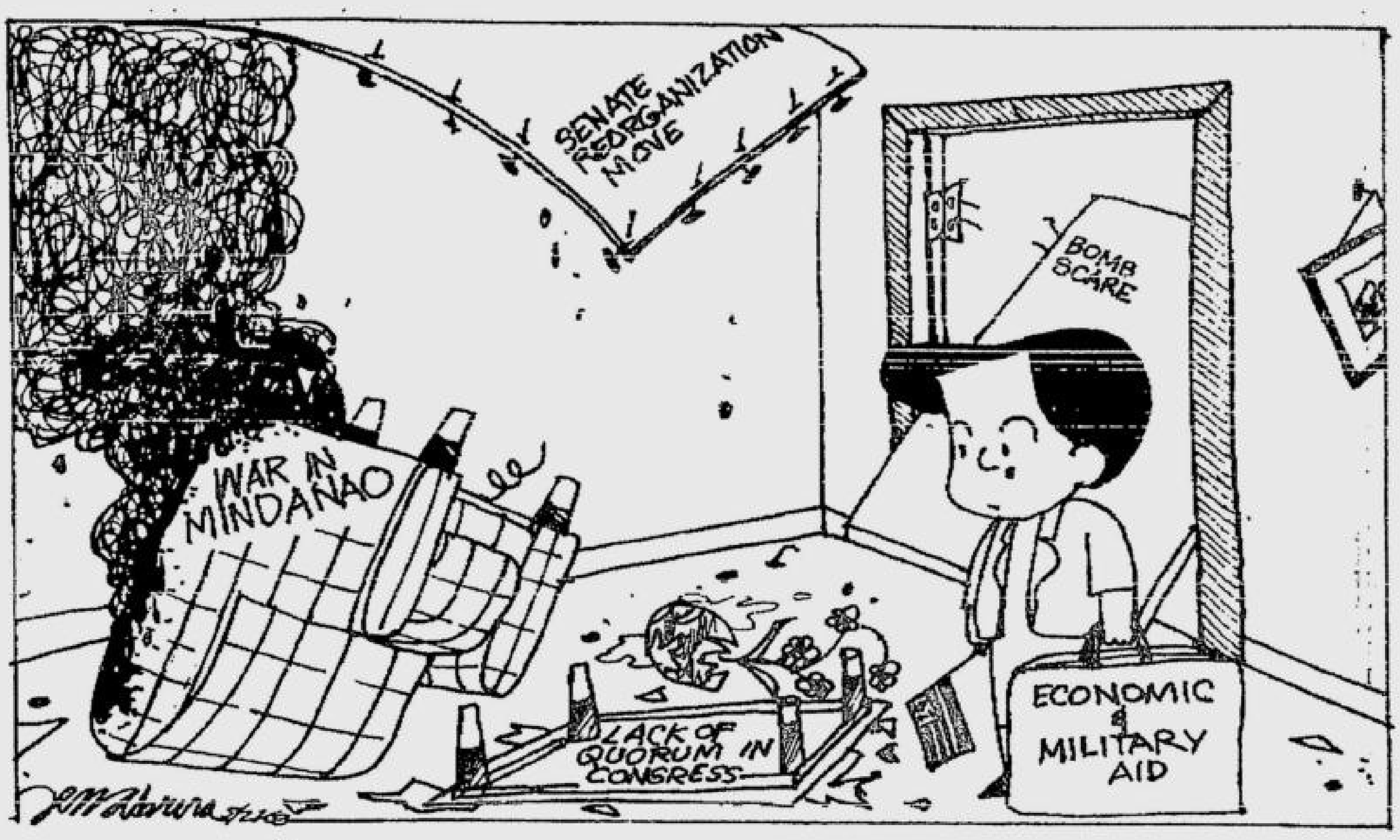
Maritime rules call for ships to pass each other on the starboard or right sides. However, the collision happened on their port or left sides, meaning somebody broke that rule. But who?

The chief mate of San Nicolas said Super Ferry 12 did not respond to repeated calls over the radio, forcing him to change direction twice. (Under international maritime rules, silence is a signal to go ahead.) But after making such maneuvers, he said, the next thing he saw was Super Ferry 12 looming right in front of San Nicolas. The visibility then was zero, he said, but several passengers claimed they could see as far as three miles ahead.

The skipper of Super Ferry 12, on the other hand, said that San Nicholas was first spotted on the radar five miles away on a "meeting" course with his ship. When they were just a mile apart, he noticed San Nicolas altering its course "in an erratic manner." When the smaller ship tried to cross the bow of Super Ferry 12, he tried to veer away to avoid a collision but the other ship still caught the mid-section of his ship.

All these contrary accounts will have to be straightened out by the Board of Marine Inquiry which has been tasked to investigate the latest sea tragedy. Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza has said the board would "get to the bottom of the tragedy" in compliance with the President's instructions.

But we have heard all these many times before—the promise to investigate thoroughly and the pledge to punish everyone responsible. The first part usually gets done (though seldom very thoroughly), while the second simply remains a threat. Thus, it is hardly surprising that the tragedy is often repeated. Accidents involving mass transport vessels have become "perennial," as the President has said. It's as if after experiencing the biggest peacetime maritime disaster in 1987, when 4,340 people perished in the sinking of Doña Paz, we seem determined not to let go of that distinction. In fact, that 16-year-old tragedy illustrates what happens to official pledges of giving justice to the victims and their families and resolutions to ensure the safety of passengers: like some of the victims, they end up at the bottom of the sea.



The crowded seas and skies

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HOW can two ships just collide in the open sea that is so big there is enough space for all the sea vessels in the world? This is a question that is often asked whenever sea vessels collide. For that matter, why do airplanes collide in a limitless sky? It is understandable for land vehicles to hit one another in the crowded streets, but in the wild blue yonder? These were asked again of me by my daughter after the sea collision off Corregidor.

The answer is that the sky and the sea may indeed be vast, but ships and airplanes travel in sea lanes and air lanes just like the streets on land. The reason is that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points and these lanes, while not really straight, are the shortest routes between destinations. This saves the sea and air carriers time and fuel.

Now, just like streets on land, there are busy and not-so-busy sea and air lanes. Naturally accidents usually happen in the busy lanes. And accidents usually happen during bad weather (as happened off Corregidor the other day), when visibility is bad, when there is fog or cloud cover, and at night when it is dark.

Rules of the sea require sea vessels to sound their foghorns regularly when visibility is bad to warn other vessels nearby of their presence. Foglights at night and during foggy days help but sometimes the fog is so thick that the lights are not seen. Or they are seen when it is too late to avoid a collision.

The terrific speed of airplanes, especially jets, make the air lanes even more dangerous. By the time a pilot sees another plane on collision course in the horizon, it is too late. The two airplanes are upon each other in seconds.

For added safety, the airplanes fly at different altitudes assigned to them by air controllers at the nearest airports. The controllers are supposed to know at all times where and at what altitudes all the airplanes in their jurisdiction are. They radio instructions to the pilots and assign them new altitudes if other planes are in the vicinity. A pilot cannot change altitude or lane without permission from the controller.

Sometimes, the controller or the pilot is negligent and makes a mistake, and that's when accidents happen. More often, a mechanical defect is to blame. The pilot cannot control his plane. Or radio signals are weak because of bad weather or, again, mechanical defect.

Radar warns pilots of approaching objects so they can take evasive action on time. But oftentimes the older planes have none. Or they may have one but is out of order. That's when accidents happen.

Sometimes, collisions happen not in the air but on the ground, when two planes—one landing and the other taking off, taxiing into position, or waiting for permission to take off—cross each other's paths. Again, the controller is supposed to be in control of the planes on the runway but sometimes, a controller blinks and wham.

For the truth is that many airports are congested. And that though the skies and seas may look so vast, they are actually already crowded.

* * *

Meneleo Carlos Jr., president of R.I. Chemical Corp. in Pasig, about which we wrote here last May 13, sent a letter to "put things in perspective." An accident had spilled chemicals from one of its storage tanks whose noxious fumes sent a number of residents to the hospital. Early reports said one of them died.

Carlos said no one died from the accident. His figures showed that of the 89 persons brought to the nearby Mary Immaculate Hospital and the Medical City, 68 were cleared and sent home immediately. Twenty of the 21 confined were discharged within 48 hours with no after effects. No one remained beyond 72 hours.

"Our industrial clinic, company physician and nurse have remained accessible to nearby residents since then," Carlos said.

The accident was blamed on the heat of summer. "Our plant was shut down for the long weekend when the vinyl acetate monomer (VAM) stored in one of our tanks polymerized, generating heat and blew off the tank roof," leading to the spill, said Carlos. VAM is used to make common household white glue, nail polish, plastic balloons and paint. It biodegrades readily in water and in the atmosphere.

After the incident, "the Pasig Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Cenro) closed our VAM-related facility, and ordered us not to operate our plant pending advise from the city government. We have not resumed our operations up to the present," Carlos wrote. "We have always had a valid mayor's permit, as well as other operating permits and have installed complete safety and anti-pollution devices, including sensitive emission monitoring apparatus, which enable us to comply with the Clean Air Act."

He said his company is cooperating with the government and has not disposed of any wastes from the incident, "but have stored these in an empty adjoining tank and in closed drums. Our company has prudently decided not to store this material again in bulk at our site."

As to a chemical plant being located in a residential area, Carlos said the plant was established at the site in 1955 when it was just an open field and before any municipal roads were built and paved. It was the residential houses that closed in on the plant. "We were the first of several industrial locators," he said.

Nevertheless, R.I. Chemical has long planned to move to a 14-hectare site in Batangas. The present site is being rezoned into a commercial area and the company plans to sell the 7-hectare site to Shoemart to be converted into a mall on a partnership basis.

Modernization

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

REP. Prospero Pichay is happy. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to the United States, he says, has opened doors for the modernization of the AFP. The talks between GMA and Bush produced pledges by the latter to supply the AFP with more military aid. That is good news, he says, because we cannot modernize our local military ourselves. Pichay has every reason to be happy. He is the head of the House armed forces committee.

Currently, Pichay says, we only have 18 helicopters, two attack planes, six helicopter gunships, and two transport planes. When we still had the US bases, he says, we had almost 100 helicopters, 12 attack planes, a fleet of fighter jets, courtesy of the Americans. With GMA being the current darling of the White House, we might even have more.

That was what was wrong with the US bases to begin with. Nobody in this country benefited from them except the AFP. Well, the whores of Olongapo and Angeles did in part, by which I mean primarily those to be found in their city halls, who did not mind trading the whole country for a few million bucks for themselves and their turfs, and not those parading themselves in their streets. Certainly, not the residents there, who got saddled with toxic wastes and unwanted Amerasian babies. Well, some of the babies were wanted, as passports to America or to the Philippine Basketball Association, whichever came first or more lucratively.

And that is what is wrong with GMA's support for Bush's ironically named "war against terror," which earned for her a dinner in the White House. Nobody in this country benefits from it except the AFP. Well, the whores as well of Basilan and Zamboanga, the ones to be found in their city halls who do not mind trading the whole country for the few million dollars that go with US troops. Certainly not their residents, who will soon get to know firsthand the destructive capabilities of a "modernized" AFP. And certainly not the residents of this country who have just found themselves restored to Commonwealth citizens as that batty group on TV wanted all along.

At the very least, what's wrong with this is that it shows a skewed sense of priorities. It's the American version of throwing cake at the hungry. What this country needs badly is not a modernized military, it is a modernized economy. Or just as compellingly, if not more so, a modernized educational system. This country's biggest problem is not terrorism, it is poverty and ignorance, the one feeding into the other. Poverty breeds the ignorance and benightedness, ignorance feeds the poverty and desperation. If GMA should be declaring war against anything, it is the impoverishment of this country in mind and body, not the impoverishment of its military.

Shortly before I read Pichay's comments in the papers, I had just caught an ad of Panfilo Lacson on TV. The ad showed a woman swearing to the effect that Lacson had helped her fight off extortionists who had been waylaying her business. The ad concluded with Lacson saying crime was the No. 1 enemy of the country. Without peace and order, he said, this country would not progress. He of course offered to provide the peace and order. A ridiculous idea since peace and order means nothing more than people obeying the law. The ad refutes Lacson's claim. He grossly violates the law, specifically the one that bans early electioneering. There is a prescribed period for campaigning. That is not one year before the elections.

But more than that, the message is wrong. The No. 1 problem of this country is not crime, it is poverty. The equation is not: With crime, there will be no progress. It is: With progress, there will be no crime. The equation is not: With terrorists, there will be no economic recovery. It is: With economic recovery, there will be no terrorists.

But the boon to the AFP that comes from GMA's blanket support for Bush is more than giving cake to the hungry. Cake at least has the salutary effect of mollifying part of the hunger, even if it makes one very very thirsty, if not diabetic. The threatened modernization of the AFP—it is a threat—is giving poison to the hungry.

The problem with giving the AFP more arms and equipment, like the problem of giving the police more arms and powers, is that the arms and equipment have a way of justifying themselves. It is not just Saddam Hussein in whose hands weapons of mass destruction result in mass destruction—and you must ask why the United States and Britain put them there to begin with. It is also in the hands of the AFP.

This country is not at war with another country. Its insurgency problem has pretty much died down—at least until GMA took over and nearly single-handedly fanned it back to a bright flame. Until GMA took over also, the country had a problem only with kidnapping, which included a gang that specialized in foreign victims, which called itself the Abu Sayyaf. A fighting force that has no enemy will create an enemy, or perish. The AFP's greatest enemy is not terrorists, it is the lack of them.

That bodes ill especially for Muslim Mindanao, which is Angelo Reyes' favorite setting for his scripts, which GMA has produced and directed for her own ends. How the Abu Sayyaf turned into terrorists and drew in the entire MILF as well, only they know. The inclusion of the MILF into the ranks of terrorists not quite incidentally followed the passage of a national budget that gave the AFP P42.6 billion. With more military aid pouring in from America, you wonder whom the AFP will be fighting next. Or appear to be so.

If this is the definition of modernization, then the equation is not: With a modernized army, we will have a modern country. It is: With a modernized army, we will have an even more backward one.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Two eminent Filipino newsmen

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

TWO eminent Filipino journalists passed away this month, leaving legacies in journalism that will be hard to emulate—Armando Malay, last May 16, and Raul Locsin, last Saturday. From tributes paid to them by their former students, reporters who came under their tutelage, and many of their admirers in the journalistic world and outside, few can doubt that they have left an enduring influence on people who had associated with them.

Laudatory obituaries have been written, replete with details I cannot add to any further. They deserve the praises heaped on them for their journalistic excellence, competence, independence and integrity. For my part, I'd like to recall memories of these two men from the perspective of the times in which they carved out their outstanding journalistic careers.

Malay is a remote figure to me, but his reputation during his working days was so enormous it was hard to ignore him. He was separated from me by two generations of journalists and I have more association with his children—Bobbie, Buddy and Dick—than with him. In the post-liberation years of rambunctious journalism, when the press was savoring its freedom after four years of Japanese occupation, Malay belonged to the incandescent constellation of columnists of the likes of Ernie del Rosario, Horacio Borromeo and Indalecio Soliongco who graced the opinion pages of the post-war Manila Chronicle. The Chronicle had the best and most gifted stable of columnists in that period. Their other popular contemporaries were Arsenio Lacson and Pedro Padilla of the Star Reporter of Vicente del Fierro.

Malay was a low-key columnist—not one given to verbal pyrotechnics and bombast that were the style of the day—and his "With a Grain of Salt" reflected the skepticism that is the hallmark of inquisitive journalists who see through the pomp and humbug of the powerful. Malay deflated the pretentious with a column that pricked a balloon with pins. At the time, when Congress was on Lepanto, the Star Reporter, which had at most eight pages, was read mainly because of the rapier wit of "Arsenic" Lacson, the bruising pen of Pete Padilla and Del Fierro's bucolic, if not sardonic, ridicule.

From the 1950s onwards, Malay shifted his attention and talents to teaching at the University of the Philippines. I bumped into him occasionally at the College of Mass Communications and I remember him with his gruff voice. The main memory that stuck to his students' minds is that Malay drilled them on the basics of journalism—digging facts, reporting news accurately without fear or favor and writing news as an art form. At the time, no one was talking about the fanciful word "investigative journalism," which basically is rigorous reporting. That is how Malay steered away from the pretentiousness in journalism that today carries pompous titles.

Raul Locsin belongs to my generation. His link with the Malay generation was Locsin's uncle, Arsenio Lacson, the soccer player at Ateneo and amateur boxer who once challenged Ferdinand Marcos to a fistfight, a choleric newspaperman whose razor-sharp pen draws blood before you feel the pain, and later the best mayor Manila has ever had, without exception.

Raul Locsin and his brother, Alfio, emulated Arsenic, including his mannerisms, his swagger and even his vices (i.e. drinking). Of the two brothers, Alfio was more flamboyant while Raul was more subdued. But they were not alcoholics. They also shared Arsenic's genes oozing with journalistic red cells. Their gifts manifested early even in the highly competitive, dog-eat-dog world of Manila journalism. After apprenticeship with his father's paper in Bacolod, Raul joined the Chronicle as a business journalist for a while where the Lopezes recruited the bright journalists from Negros and Iloilo.

He was a good business journalist, and so was Alfio, who was to become business editor of the Manila Times. Alfio was protective of fellow Ilonggos. During a brawl at the National Press Club, Alfio, who had the build of a boxer, came to my rescue when he thought I was being bullied by somebody.

Alfio did not live long enough to develop his talents fully, but Raul went on to establish a new concept in publishing. He opened a business paper—Business Monitor, and later Business Day—with bank credit and the help of business friends. His vision of a paper is that it should be independent of vested interests, including those that helped finance the paper; and he succeeded in extracting a pledge from business partners that they should never interfere in the editorial independence of the paper. This non-interference is the secret of the success and editorial integrity of Business Day which later became BusinessWorld. This ideal is reflected in the paper's masthead—"A newspaper is a public trust." As far as I know, Raul never betrayed this trust.

Raul was ahead of his time in identifying a niche for his business paper. The paper is rather bland but publishes stories based on solid facts and well-researched information. It did not go for big circulation built on sensational news but it does print sufficient copies to make the paper earn a tidy profit and remain financially independent.

BusinessWorld does not have editorials. But it has opinion writers. Raul's probably most enduring legacy to journalism is the establishment of the concept of a business paper backed by business partners while maintaining independence from them.

If his paper has remained uncompromised, it was largely due to the hands-on direction of Raul who, aside from being publisher, also acted as editor and mentor of his staff. As mentor, Raul, like Malay, drilled staff on the basics of journalism—hard facts, good and simple writing and plenty of leg work. This is old school journalism that is as good today as it was yesterday.

Bali and Bt corn

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

> Maybe if the struggle against Bt corn was seen as a struggle for national liberty, more people here would join in

AS a boy growing up in an Irish-American family I always wanted to go to Ireland. After all the stories I heard at home I thought it must be a beautiful place, filled with brave and witty people, full of the past and poetry. It wasn't quite like that when I finally had a chance to go there, but it was never disappointing, even when it rained for days on end.

From the time I came to Asia years ago I wanted to visit Bali, where nature and people were said to live in perfect harmony amid old traditions, beautiful women, dances and temples. When I finally received an invitation to visit Bali it was to attend a meeting on globalization of the economy. I thought it was funny. How could such an abstract topic be discussed in paradise?

We soon learned Bali was the perfect place for such a discussion since it teaches what is most needed in the struggle against uncontrolled free trade and foreign control, namely, faithfulness to a traditional way of life and traditional values. In Bali, for example, people continue to design their homes the old way with priority given to the family temple; they grow rice the old way though it costs more than the miracle rice varieties; they have faithfully held on to their old Hindu rites though Hindus are a small minority in a sea of Muslims. They say to the hundreds of thousands of tourists who visit Bali each year: this is what we are; we are proud of what we are.

In our seminar on globalization, an Indonesian woman talked of its dangers. The rich countries will, unless checked, control the world's food supply (Bt corn, for example), medicines, finance and manufacturing, natural resources (mining), basic services such as water and light (Manila Water, Meralco), intellectual patents, weapons of war and all political decision-making. She showed a film on the subject in which a US steelworker protesting uncontrolled free trade says, "The one thing the rich want is everything." It was a good summary of her talk.

The Philippines has a good example of this over-arching power in the Bt-corn controversy in which several people, including my parish priest Fr. Robert Reyes, are on hunger strike. The fasters are protesting the danger Bt corn poses to other varieties of corn, animals and humans, but it is also a question of control. Does the country want its corn industry and food security controlled by foreign companies, such as Monsanto that now propagates the Bt corn? Does it want its native varieties and, eventually its native growers, to disappear?

Poor countries do not have to accept foreign control. There are alternatives. "Another world is possible" in the words of the World Social Forum, the response of civil society worldwide to excessive free trade.

It's not easy to reject Monsanto's efforts here. Father Reyes told the writer that the US Agency for International Development has given the government a P200-million loan to help the spread of Bt corn. The farmer get free seeds for a year. The promised increases in production are dramatic, but problems are downplayed.

It comes down to basic values. In Bali the more obvious values have to do with the Balinese remaining themselves no matter who governs them or who arrives by the hundreds of thousands to visit. In the Philippines the basic value has been, unless I'm mistaken, political freedom. The country was the first republic in Asia. More Filipinos died fighting the colonial powers here (Spain and the United States) than died in any other country in the anti-colonial wars. More Filipinos fought the Marcos dictatorship than Koreans fought the dictatorship of Park Chung-hee or Indonesians that of Suharto.

Maybe if the struggle against Bt corn and the other excesses of the new global economy was seen as a struggle for national liberty, more people here would join in. Time is running out. Some local industries have disappeared already. I met a taxi driver who said he was from Romblon. When I asked how the marble business was, he told me it was nearly crippled by the entry of inexpensive, good quality marble from China that is allowed in now as tariffs are lowered to stimulate free trade.

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates.

History in food research

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

MOST people learn about a new country or people by reading books, meeting locals and going through museums and historical places or landmarks. My method is simpler and much faster. After reading a basic guidebook and studying a city map, I get on a bus and ride from end to end. Although they are faster and more economical, I avoid subways because traveling underground robs you of the cityscape. My first stop is a market for window shopping. Eating being an act of faith I sample all kinds of food, even street food, and worry about stomach trouble later. The soul of a country is best reached through the belly and the palate. Poetry, literature, drama, require an understanding of the language but food is universal, and the differences in preparation, taste and preference marks the difference between cultures.

Supermarkets provide me with my first foreign words. The item and its price tag are a visual dictionary. Sometimes my explorations into food go beyond my time. Old recipe books, menus and interviews with cooks watching them prepare a particular dish reveal tradition. When going through archival manuscripts or old books and periodicals I single out references to food that most historians will ignore as trivial or irrelevant. These details when studied more carefully by demographic historians like Dan Doeppers and Francis Gealogo, go a long way into piecing together a picture of the past. Unfortunately, the material like old census records and laundry receipts can be boring and tedious if you don't know what you're looking for.

Cornejo's "Pre-War Encyclopedic Directory of the Philippines" (1939 edition) had a long list of restaurants in Manila, but the oddest thing is that the Manila Hotel nor its outlets aren't listed. Was it really so good that it did not need advertising? Or maybe Cornejo wasn't able to sell them a spot? Only a handful of the restaurants listed are extant today and these are *panciterias*. Some of the establishments like La Palma de Mallorca, Ambos Mundos and Tom's Dixie Kitchen I have heard about but the rest were just names.

I presume the Alcove Tea Room and Olive's Tea Room served Western-style tea and the following served coffee: American Café, American Doughnut Shop, Chicago Café, New Philippine Café, Cleveland Café, De Luxe Café, Ideal Café, London Café, Luzon Café, Maureene's Coffee Shop, Merchant's Café, Plaza Café, Poodle Dog Café, Star Café (no relation of course, to the Baguio branch that serves *lomi*), Universal Café. I was about to comment on Manila having a coffee and café culture long before Café Adriatico and Starbucks but when I looked at the addresses these establishments were concentrated in Quiapo and Sta. Cruz and many of them were liquor joints masquerading as cafés: Cleveland, Exchange, Kentucky, Paco, Poodle Dog and Silver Dollar were saloons. At least some owners were more honest about advertising: Hole in the Wall Bar, The Hub, Milwaukee Bar, Pablito's Palace Bar, Cascade, Loyal Drink Cerveceria, New Port Bar and Victory Bar. My favorite is Lone Star Bar, the only one in Makati. If I am not mistaken Lone Star is a beer brand. Not milk mind you, that's Marca Oso or Bear Brand. There were only a handful of Japanese restaurants:

Akadama Shokudo, Futaba Sushi, Kirako restaurant and Sukiyaki Cherry Kitchen in the Sta. Cruz and Quiapo areas. American food in the Boston Hotel and Restaurant, New Chicago Hotel and Restaurant, Ideal Sandwich Shop and Tom's Oriental Grill (no relation to Tom Cruz Grill in Makati). There was the Nueva Lunch, Excelsior Lunch, Goiti Lunch, Plaza Lunch that made me wonder if they served breakfast or dinner. There was an Irish-Hungarian restaurant, another called Russian Eagle, and the Knickerbocker restaurant competing with those named after historical figures like Rizal Restaurant and Washington Restaurant and Ice Cream Parlor.

Panciterias were numerous: Canton, Capitol, Chin Yak, O.K., China, Economica, Far Eastern, La Suerte, Luneta Antigua, New Asia Hotel, See Kee and So Ting. Most amusing was that there was a Panciteria Antigua competing with a Panciteria Nueva, and a Panciteria Moderna. Panciteria Ramon Lee is still around and it is good to know he antedates Ma Mon Luk. Other Chinese restaurants were Chan Hon Yan, Ching Kee Restaurant, Chui Ong Hian, Co Hong, Co See Guat Restaurant, Eng Guan, Guiseng Restaurant, Liong Won Hop, New Canton Restaurant.

I will not comment on the bakeries whose names alone are worth analysis: Bonifacio Bakery, Dapitan, El Filipino, El Pan de San Antonio, El Pan de Santiago, El Tesoro. Eng Ho Tin, Gaw Po, Golden State, Hiroshimado, Junction, La Estrella, La Magdalena, La Malagueña Bakery, La Pacita, La Patria, La Perla, La Suiza, Liberty, Los Baños Bakery, M.Y. San and Co., Modern, Perfection, St. Louis, San Pablo Bakery, Tokyodo, Universal and Walled City Bakery. Some preferred the old word *panaderia*: Blumentritt, Cervantes, La Elena, La Francia, La Palma de Mallorca, La Sultana, Pavia, Popular and Panaderia Viena. Finally there were the Paris Dulceria and the Astoria Swiss Confectionery and Tea Room.

All the above by themselves are useless, obscure information but with some historical sleuthing provides resonance or traces of the past.

***

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Goodbye, mother

HIGH BLOOD

Edna Flor M. delos Santos

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

I NEVER felt so alone as I did that night—the night Mother died. She had been sick with breast cancer for nine years, but she was never bedridden. Coming home from work that day, I visited her in her room. She was flat on her back, eyes closed and breathing heavily. She looked so weak. I knew the time had come.

It was 11 o'clock that night. Except for my helper and our pastor who arrived later, I was the only adult in the house, my husband being on a provincial trip. My children were asleep. Little did they know that their grandmother, she who had been their mother from infancy, would soon be gone.

Mother and I had a relationship, not of sisters, not of friends, but of mother and daughter. In the course of time, we often reversed roles, which was accompanied by a myriad of emotions—anger, hurt, frustration, and caring—always with caring.

I sat by Mother's bed and gently held her hand. I knew this would be the last time I could do this while her hand was still warm. My life with her flashed across my mind, like a movie on the screen.

I am 3 years old and Mother is crying, like I did when a bad playmate punched my rag doll in the face. Father is in a brown box, gleaming from the rays of the sun filtering through our new curtains. I am wearing a white dress—my best—with a matching ribbon pinned on my soft curls. I sit on Mother's lap as guests hug her, or kiss her, or shake her hand. Everyone looks sad. Without understanding why, I, too, feel sad.

I am 10 years old and I am dancing the "tinikling" on stage. I miss some steps but Mother keeps on clapping her hands, softly, timidly at first, then louder and louder, till she is the only one applauding as my legs are constantly caught between the two poles.

I am 15 years old and down with the flu. George, a classmate, comes around with a bouquet of flowers. "I picked them on the road on my way here," he says almost in a whisper. I am not sure if I like red gumamelas. It does not matter. I am not thinking of the flowers. I am thinking of George. The first one to give me flowers. Mother offers him a glass of juice and takes the gumamelas from my hand. Then she leaves me alone with George. I feel a sudden flooding of warmth inside me, although my fever has subsided.

Years and years later. Dusk is stealthily settling in. My 2-month-old Lowell is blissfully asleep in my arms. My 3-year-old Shari is sitting on Mother's lap. They are both watching an early evening soap opera. And they watch in silence, in peace. I watch them absorbing the scene, wrapped up in the narrative, longing to hold them both in a big embrace. My mother and my daughter are enjoying a quiet moment together. Seventy years—a lifetime—separates them, yet they are sisters sharing a common bond—the serenity of spirit. I envy them both. My daughter, for her innocence; my mother, for her courage. Mother may have to go. This is what the doctors told us. This is the law of nature. This is the dictate of time.

As I watch Mother delight in her granddaughter's touch, I wonder how many more evenings like this are reserved in the future. Suddenly, the past, the present and the future have merged into the intensity of the now. Whatever we plan to do tomorrow, let us do it now. Tomorrow is a thousand years away. I look at Mother holding my daughter in silence, in harmony with herself and her universe, unfazed by time's will. The years have been unkind to her, leaving their deep etches on her face, neck, arms and hands. She has lived a difficult life, bringing up two children after losing her husband early in life. She sacrificed the opportunity to love again for the sake of her daughters. How have I been to her? Have I loved her enough? Have I served her enough? What is it that I have to do while there is still time?

Soon, Mother will go. My daughter will grow up. She, too, will become a mother. I, too, will go. Ah, but if we love and love enough, the leaving will be sweet and calm. Then we can say goodbye with a smile.

That moment to say goodbye had come.

"Mother, Mother," I whispered. She moaned. "Let us pray. Follow me," I said. She gasped in response. "Lord, forgive me. Accept me in your bosom," I said slowly, clearly. "Ll…Ll…Ll…" She repeated, almost inaudibly. I knew then that she was almost there at the heavenly gate.

I whispered to her ears, "We have been happy together. Thank you for loving us. Thank you for taking care of us. We love you. The Lord loves you. He is waiting for you. Go. Don't worry about us. We will be fine."

Rev. Danilo Pedracio and I prayed, sang hymns and read Bible passages to her.

"Go," I repeated, conveying through the simple and short word my faith in her final destination. Then Mother's lips moved into a smile for the last time.

That was the same smile the mourners saw when they paid their last respects. It is the memory of that smile that has wiped the tears from my heart.

After the funeral, on our way home, I saw a bunch of sweet bananas, her favorite variety. I bought a bunch for her, forgetting that she was gone.

Edna Flor M. delos Santos is the dean of studies of the FEU-FERN College in Mapayapa, Quezon City.

THEY SAID

Cha-cha's fate

"If it's not dead yet, it's gasping for breath."

—Sen. Loren Legarda, referring to the move to amend the Constitution

Standing tall

"The President stands tall no matter what her height is and whoever is doing the measuring."

—Philippine-American Foundation head Irene Natividad said of President Macapagal-Arroyo

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The dismal state of RP education

AS Filipino parents start facing the high tuition fees this coming school year, the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) looks at the state of education in the Philippines and how this is affected by the government's macroeconomic policies.

Education is one of the most important basic social services, along with health, as it promotes social mobility and increases productivity earnings, thereby aiding economic development. No less than the Constitution accords education the highest priority in the central government budget. Sadly, the decline in real expenditures on education reflects the fact that this is observed more in the breach.

Certain indicators for education present cause for alarm. Consider the performances of students in both the National Elementary Assessment Test (NEAT) and the National Secondary Assessment Test (NSAT), which measure the skills and abilities of Grade 6 and fourth-year high school students. The mean performance of Grade 6 pupils in the NEAT declined from 50.8 in 1997 to 50.1 in 1998. At the secondary level, the mean performance score of fourth year high school students in the NSAT declined from 48.7 in 1997 to 46.1 in 1998. In 2002, a survey of Southeast Asian grade school students on their skills in both math and science subjects reveals the dismal performance of Filipino students compared to their counterparts in other Southeast Asian countries.

The very inadequate budgetary support for the education sector is a major factor for the deteriorating quality of education in the Philippines. The salaries of government teachers increased only 4.5 times in more than a decade from 1986-1999 in the education budget. Moreover, the share of miscellaneous and other operating expenses (MOOE) in the education budget slid from 16.5 percent in 1990 to 8.8 percent in 1999. With the budget for MOOE and capital outlays (the budget devoted to the construction of school buildings and basic classroom furniture such as desks and blackboards) declining in the last 10 years, government funds per student in effect shrunk from P510 to P134 between 1990 and 1997.

The picture not only reflects what students and teachers have to bear with on a meager education budget. It also brings to light the overall and consistent decline in real expenditures for social services. Since 1986, real expenditures on education have been falling as a consequence of the government's acquiescence to the IMF's monetary program, which targets a reduction in the fiscal deficit by addressing higher revenues and lowering public expenditures. Even the share of education expenditure to total social services expenditures declined from an average of 71 percent in 1986-1989 to 58 percent from 1990-1999.

What is appalling is the utter distortion of national priorities: while the average share of the social services sector in the national budget was around 20 percent from 1990-1997, interest payments for debts got an average share of 33 percent during the same period.

The poor state of education and the grave implications for the future should have long been a wake-up call for the government to review its priorities.

—**LIDY B. NACPIL,**
secretary general,
Freedom from Debt Coalition,
34 Matiaga St., Central District,
Quezon City

Rodeos are cruel to animals

STUDIES on serial killers have shown that many among them had been cruel to animals in their childhood. Apparently, Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon and Sen. Noli de Castro are unaware that cruelty to animals can lead to cruelty to humans. If they were, I'm sure the former would have given more thought to pledging P2 million to help make Masbate the rodeo capital of Asia. (PDI, 11/4/03) and the latter, through his TV show, would not have promoted the numerous inhumane "sports" that make up the Masbate Rodeo. ("MGB," 4/26/03)

The desensitizing effect of viewing or partaking in an activity that encourages violence toward others is a frightening phenomenon. How will rodeo aficionados react to their spouses and children when anger strikes them? Under similar circumstances, how will children respond to their younger siblings? Those who are led to believe that it's normal to deal violently with others—particularly those who are defenseless—will have a difficult time unlearning such behavior, if ever.

With such destructive long-term psychological effects in mind, I'm sure Gordon and De Castro will find the rodeo's short-term financial benefits irrelevant. Gordon, who successfully revived Olongapo's economy, can surely come up with a creative solution for Masbate's—one that doesn't rely on the suffering of life-loving, sentient beings. And one would like to believe that De Castro, who has lent his support to anti-cruelty movements in the past, hasn't forgotten the importance of kindness in these troubled times.

The rodeo is an aspect of American culture that has lost its appeal to many thinking Americans because of the brutality to animals it entails. The same can be said of the attitude of many contemporary Spaniards to bullfights. All over the world, it seems, more people are saying no to traditions based on cruelty.

In the wish that we may one day become a compassionate society, let us hope that more among us recognize cruelty when we see it, speak out against it and act to prevent it.

—**EDUARDO M.**
ENRIQUE
49 Sydney St.,
BF Homes,
Las Piñas City

Letters for human rights advocacy

"LEAVE it to the lawyers." This is the kind of mentality I had when it came to human rights. Only until someone changed this for me.

Hernand Maravilla or Nano as he is commonly known, was a Biology student at the Ateneo de Zamboanga University. I have known him for a year but his vision has made a great impact on many people's lives, including mine.

Nano believes in solidarity, that people must share a commitment to help others. He introduced me to the world of human rights—a world where young people can take part.

I remember giving him a confused look when he explained how we could help in the promotion of human rights. Simple, he says if you are able to read and write, chances are you can help. One of the methods of Amnesty International is letter-writing. Members send letters of appeal to various institutions and authorities around the world to promote due process of law and release of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. It has proven to be effective in the promotion of justice.

Somewhere in any part of the world, injustice and human rights violations are rampant or even in the mainstream. There are minors in death row; many prisoners who were merely suspects now forgotten, aging in prison cells.

Nano helped me and many others who joined Amnesty International open our eyes to hope and made us see how we can help other people whom we may never get to meet in person to make a difference in this part of the world.

There are people who give much of themselves to help others, like Nano, who gave his time, effort and his life. I am grateful that he became a part of my life. His family and friends are proud of him. Nano was the founder of the Amnesty International Zamboanga Group. He died at the age of 23 of leukemia last April 13, 2003.

—**LINDA E. BANSIL,**
Ateneo de Zamboanga University

A day for lesbians, gays

THE MEMBERS and supporters of Pinoy Pride welcome the suggestion of Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos to set aside one day to honor members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Pinoy Pride is the network of organizations and individuals preparing for the 22nd World Conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association to be held in November 2003. During the conference, one of the sessions will be a special meeting of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) government officials and their supporters. It is this special meeting that Marcos and her colleagues in the House as well as members of the LGBT community might want to participate in to understand more deeply the issue of human rights violations and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. We hope she will follow up her informal media suggestion with a formal resolution in Congress.

—**ANNA LEAH SARABIA,**
co-secretary general,
International Lesbian and Gay Association;
convenor, Pinoy Pride Network

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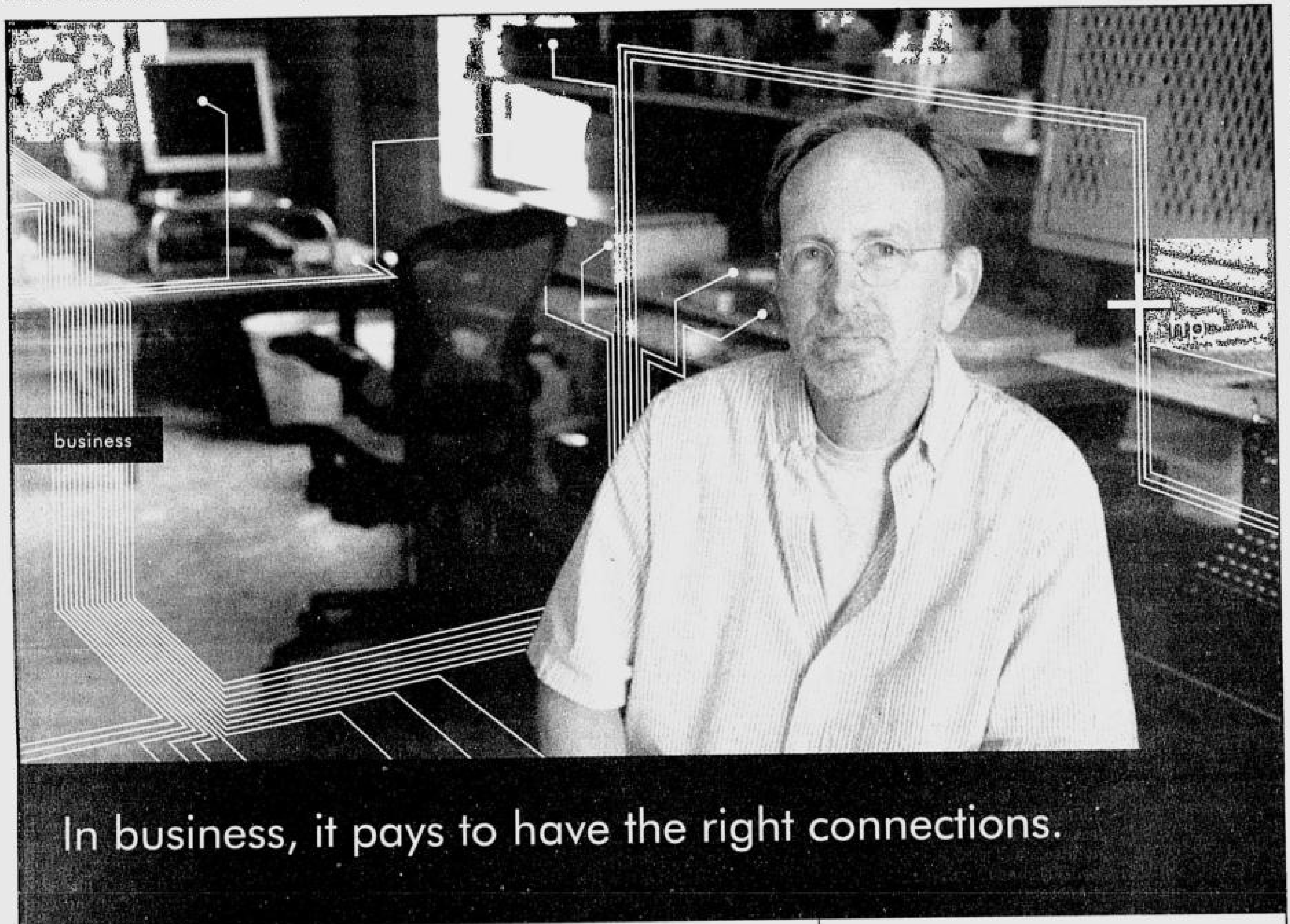
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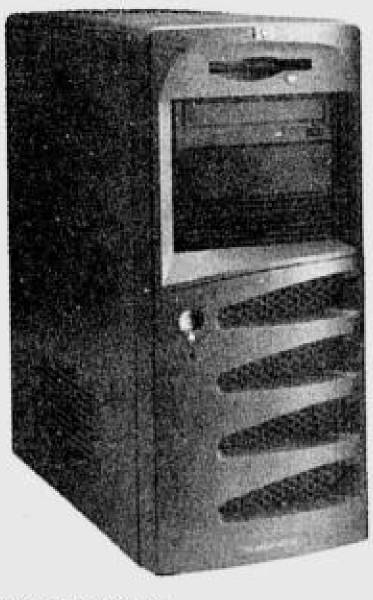

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

4 US troops in Iraq killed amid attacks

WASHINGTON—Four US soldiers died and six others were wounded in Iraq Monday amid a flare-up of guerrilla activity and street violence that underscored the tenuousness of the US hold on the country.

One soldier was killed and three injured when their vehicle ran over a land mine or some other unexploded ordnance on a highway leading to the Baghdad airport, the US Central Command said.

"The incident . . . appears to be a result of hostile action, though the specific circumstances of the incident are unconfirmed," the command said in a statement.

The explosion capped a day of concerted attacks and fatal accidents that highlighted the perils still awaiting US-British coalition forces in the vast Middle Eastern country that US President George W. Bush wants to turn into a democracy.

Earlier, the US military reported the death of one soldier and the wounding of another in a convoy that was ambushed by unidentified Iraqis.

The eight-vehicle resupply convoy came under rocket-propelled grenade and heavy machine gun fire as it moved near the town of Hadithah, about 192 km northwest of Baghdad.

"Attack helicopters and ground forces were immediately brought in to secure the area and seek out the attackers," said the Central Command.

But there was no subsequent word if the search was successful.

To make matters worse, US commanders in Iraq had to deal with at least two fatal accidents.

One soldier drowned after diving into an aqueduct south of the northern city of Kirkuk, said Central Command spokesperson Cmdr. David Culler.

Another was killed and two more injured after their vehicle collided with a tractor-trailer on a road northwest of the city of Tallil.

"It was heavy on accidents today," Culler conceded, adding that the number of attacks on US troop was usual.

US Army soldiers at the site of a roadside explosion against a US army Humvee on the main airport road in Baghdad, May 26. Three soldiers were wounded in the attack. REUTERS

The new casualties came as Americans paid tribute to their war dead during Memorial Day ceremonies around the country.

But Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, speaking at Arlington National Cemetery, vowed the United States will not retreat in the face of news dangers and threats.

"They will be met with the same courage, the same commitment and like the foes of times past, they, too, will be defeated," he said.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon identified the US soldier who was killed by an ammunition explosion in the town of Ad Diwaniyah Sunday as 18-year-old Pvt. David Evans of Buffalo, New York.

The casualty toll most likely would have been higher had it not been for the vigilance of US troops and sheer luck.

An unknown number of assailants threw grenades at US military police guarding the former Badr Corps headquarters in the eastern town of Baqubah late Sunday, but injured no one on the American side, according to US defense officials.

The corps is the military wing of the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, an Iranian-backed organization seeking a political role in the country.

AFP

50 years after, Hillary cheered once more on Kathmandu's streets

KATHMANDU—Just as he did 50 years ago, Edmund Hillary rode through the centuries-old lanes of Kathmandu in a horse-drawn carriage on Tuesday, cheered by thousands of Nepalis crowding footpaths and clinging to temple steps.

The tiny Himalayan kingdom is feting the 83-year-old former beekeeper from New Zealand, now Sir Edmund, to mark Thursday's 50th anniversary of the first ascent of Mount Everest, a feat that kicked off a tourism boom in the impoverished nation.

Garlanded with marigolds, bougainvillea and a yellow Buddhist prayer scarf, Hillary drew loud cheers and claps when he spoke at Hanuman Dhoka ("the gate of the monkey god") as a band played wedding music and curious monkeys hung from temple roofs.

"Today is a fantastic celebration of the warmth of the people of Nepal for their mountaineers who have climbed their great Mount Everest," Hillary told a large crowd packing the 300-year-old square lined with Hindu and Buddhist temples.

Bemused Hindu holy men looked on and school children in grey and white uniforms lined parts of the route for the parade, some holding small signs in Nepali and English with slogans such as: "May God give us the strength to be like you" and "Summiteers are the pride of us."

Camera-wielding tourists mobbed the dais and local residents watched from rooftops and balconies.

"I am here to welcome Edmund Hillary," said 11-year-old student Ruben Bajracharya, who had stood on the cobblestone lane for an hour-and-a-half holding a sign in Nepali saying: "A guest is like God. He is a big mountain climber."

About 450 summiteers are in Nepal for the anniversary, including the first woman to scale Everest, Japan's Junko Tabei, and the first man to climb alone, and without bottled oxygen, Reinhold Messner, who accompanied Hillary in Tuesday's parade.

Although organizers are trying to recreate the nationwide celebrations that swept Nepal in 1953, just a few years after it was opened to the outside world, one crucial ingredient was missing: Tenzing Norgay, the Nepali who climbed with Hillary to the 8,850-meter summit.

Tenzing died in 1986, but his son and grandson, who have both reached the top of Everest themselves, are part of the celebrations.

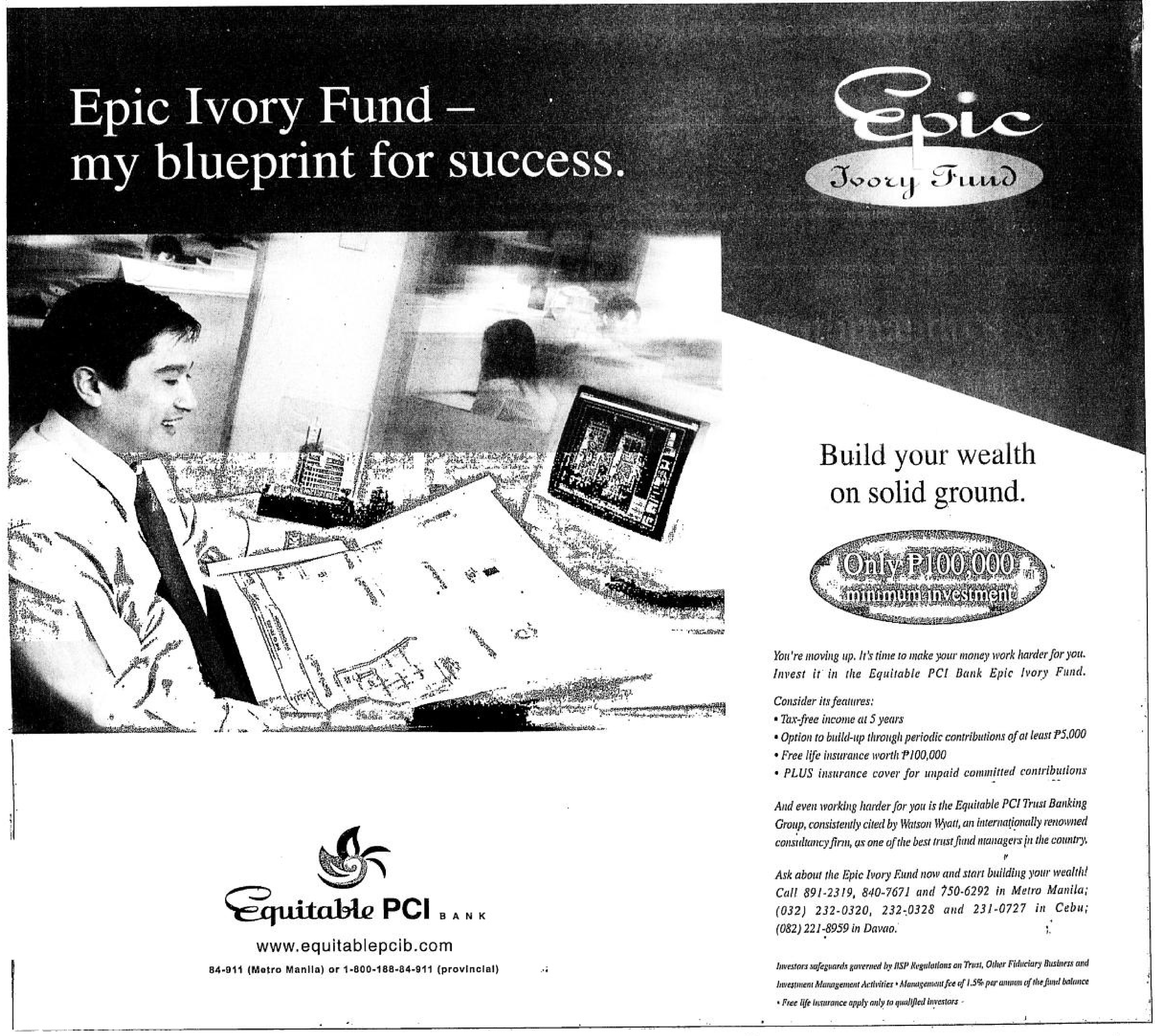
Also missing are the nationalistic posters of 1953 showing Tenzing hauling a limp Hillary to the summit. Hillary insists he reached the top a few meter head of Tenzing.

Tall and lanky when he reached the roof of the world half a century ago, Hillary is now grey and stooped, walking with the help of a hiking stick.

But he is setting a gruelling pace of speeches, media events and official functions as he jets around the world for the anniversary.

"A wonderful experience, a great 50th anniversary of the ascent of Everest," he wrote in the Kathmandu city visitor's book on Tuesday.

Reuters



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4 new SARS deaths in Taiwan; Toronto on alert

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Canadian officials conceded that precautions at Toronto hospitals weren't enough to prevent new SARS infections, while Japanese doctors in Taiwan on Tuesday examined whether the outbreak on the developed island might mean that Japan is also at risk.

Hong Kong researchers said a vaccine for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome developed with their mainland Chinese counterparts was ready for testing on animals, with results expected in six months.

Since emerging in November in southern China, the virus has infected more than 8,200 people worldwide. Taiwan on Tuesday reported 11 new cases and four deaths, bringing the global death toll to at least 729.

The vast majority of cases have been in Asia where fears of the illness have led to a severe downturn in tourism. The largest outbreaks have been on China's mainland and in its territory Hong Kong, followed by Taiwan.

Two Japanese doctors were in Taiwan to study why SARS spread so quickly here—an economically developed society similar to Japan's. Japan has no confirmed SARS cases but is concerned the virus could hit there next.

"We are standing in the same boat," one of the visiting physicians, Hiroshi Noguchi of Narita Red Cross Hospital, said after arriving Monday.

China has been reporting falling numbers of new cases, especially in its hard-hit capital, though the World Health Organization says it is too early to declare China's outbreak under control. Beijing officials have warned repeatedly against relaxing preventive measures.

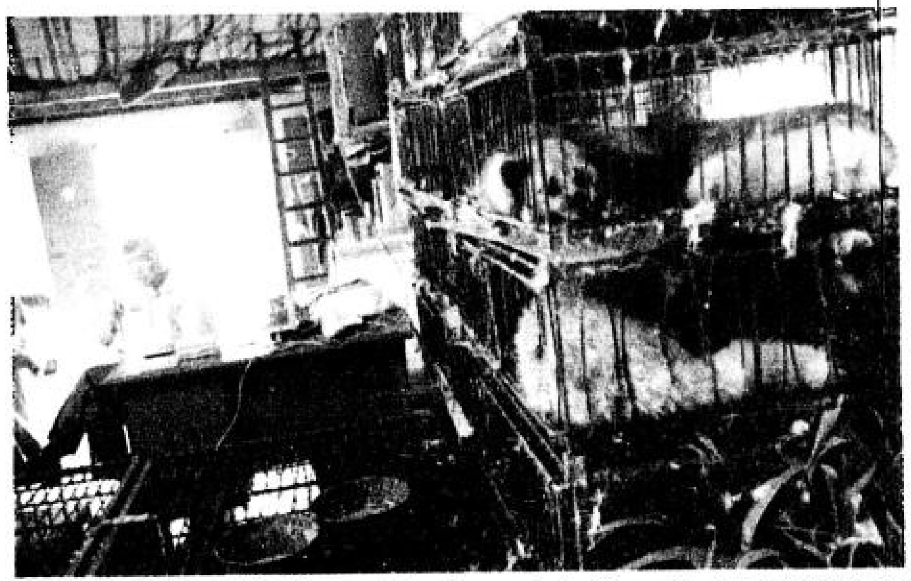
WHO put Canada's largest city back on its list of SARS-affected places, after health officials there reported eight new cases and 26 suspected cases in clusters linked to four hospitals.

The WHO did not recommend any travel restrictions for the city, but the US Centers for Disease Control has issued a travel alert for Canada, a step short of advising against unnecessary travel there.

Toronto health authorities were scrambling to limit any further possible spread while investigating how the new cases slipped through upgraded monitoring.

They re-imposed strict controls on hospitals—closing those where the new cases were found to new patients and limiting access to emergency rooms in all others, with staff required to wear protective masks and gowns and take the temperature of anyone entering.

"What it tells us at the moment is that there is a failure in our system of management," said Dr. Allison McGeer, head of infection control of Mount Sinai Hospital who has recovered from SARS she contracted in the early days of Toronto's initial outbreak in March. *AP*



A MAN sits in his stall beside caged dogs in a market selling wild animals for dishes in Guangzhou, in China's Guangdong Province May 26. Guangzhou is to begin controls on animal markets to prevent the spread of SARS. AP

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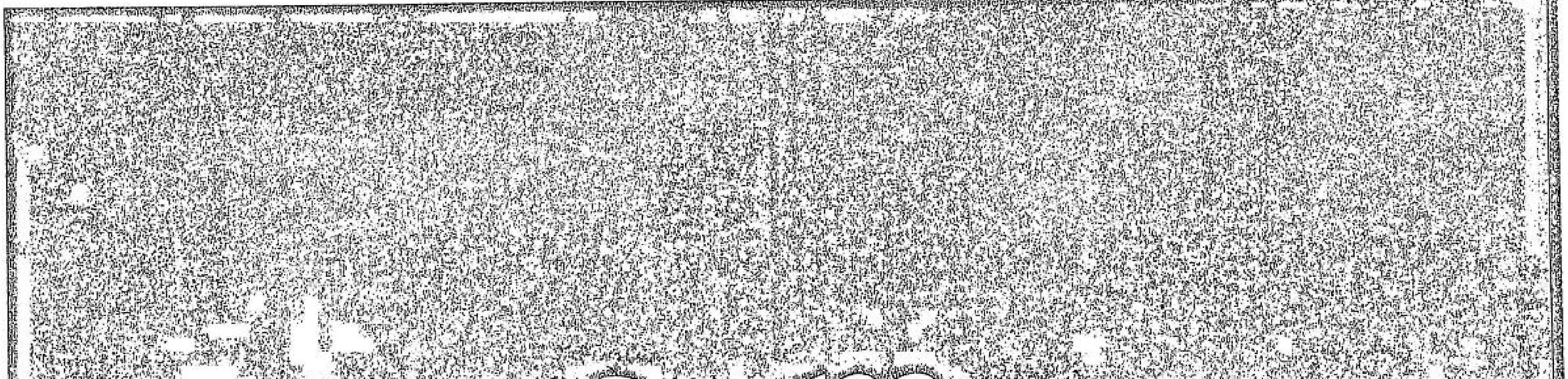
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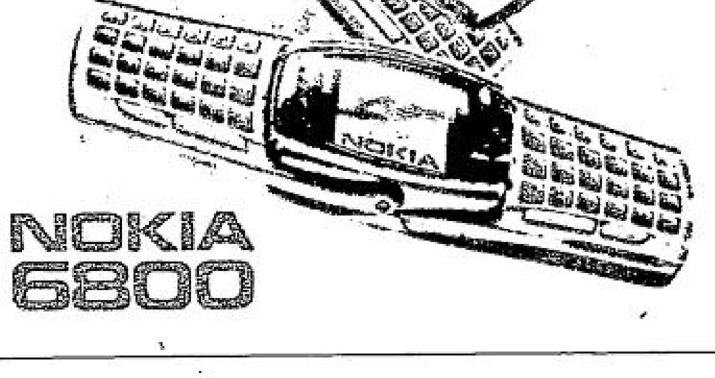

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Turkey plane crash pinned on pilot error

ANKARA—Pilot error was blamed Monday when a Ukrainian transport plane slammed into a fog-shrouded mountain in Turkey and exploded, killing 62 Spanish peacekeepers and a 12-man Ukrainian crew.

The plane, an Ukrainian-operated Yak-42 transport aircraft, was flying the Spanish troops home from missions in Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan, and crashed on its second attempt to land at the port of Trabzon for refueling, civil aviation officials said.

"Even if it is still too early to state definitively, it seems that there was a pilot error because the plane hit the mountain for no apparent reason," said a Turkish civil aviation official, who requested anonymity.

Ukraine President Leonid Kuchma ordered an inquiry into the crash and sent condolences to the families of the 12 Ukrainians and to Spain's King Juan Carlos, his spokesperson Olena Hromnitska said, quoted by Interfax news agency.

The crash of the Yak-42, owned by Ukrainian charter company Sredizemnomorskiye, was the third accident involving Ukrainian planes in less than six months. The others occurred over the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Iran.

But a company official defended their safety record saying, "this airplane belonged to our company and followed all security norms."

And the Turkish aviation official said Trabzon was equipped to modern standards. "The conversation between the control tower and the cockpit is now being decoded," he said.

The Spanish defense ministry said the dead included 40 army soldiers, 21 members of the air force and one civil guard.

Pope John Paul II and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan sent condolences to Madrid and Kiev over the tragedy.

Spanish Defense Minister Federico Trillo went to Turkey to help arrange for the repatriation of the bodies. He toured the crash site accompanied by his Turkish counterpart Vecdi Gonul and Ukraine's ambassador to Turkey.

The aircraft took off from Kabul Sunday, stopped off in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and was headed for Zaragoza, Spain. *AFP*

Travel havoc seen as French controllers join pension dispute

PARIS—Travellers trying to leave or get to France by plane faced massive disruptions Tuesday as air traffic controllers went on strike, joining the growing campaign against the government's plans for pension reform.

The country's civil aviation authority DGAC said some 80 percent of flights to and from French airports would be canceled due to the 24-hour work stoppage by controllers and other airport staff, called by the hardline CGT union.

Air France said it would operate only 35 percent of short and medium haul flights but would maintain all long-distance flights. British Airways said it was canceling most of its services to and from France, as did KLM and SAS.

Passengers were being offered refunds, equivalent trips on connecting flights or on another day, rail tickets, or being rerouted to neighboring countries with the promise of ground transportation to reach their destination.

The disruption is the latest episode in an escalating campaign by France's powerful unions to force the government of Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin to withdraw a pensions reform bill due to come before parliament next month.

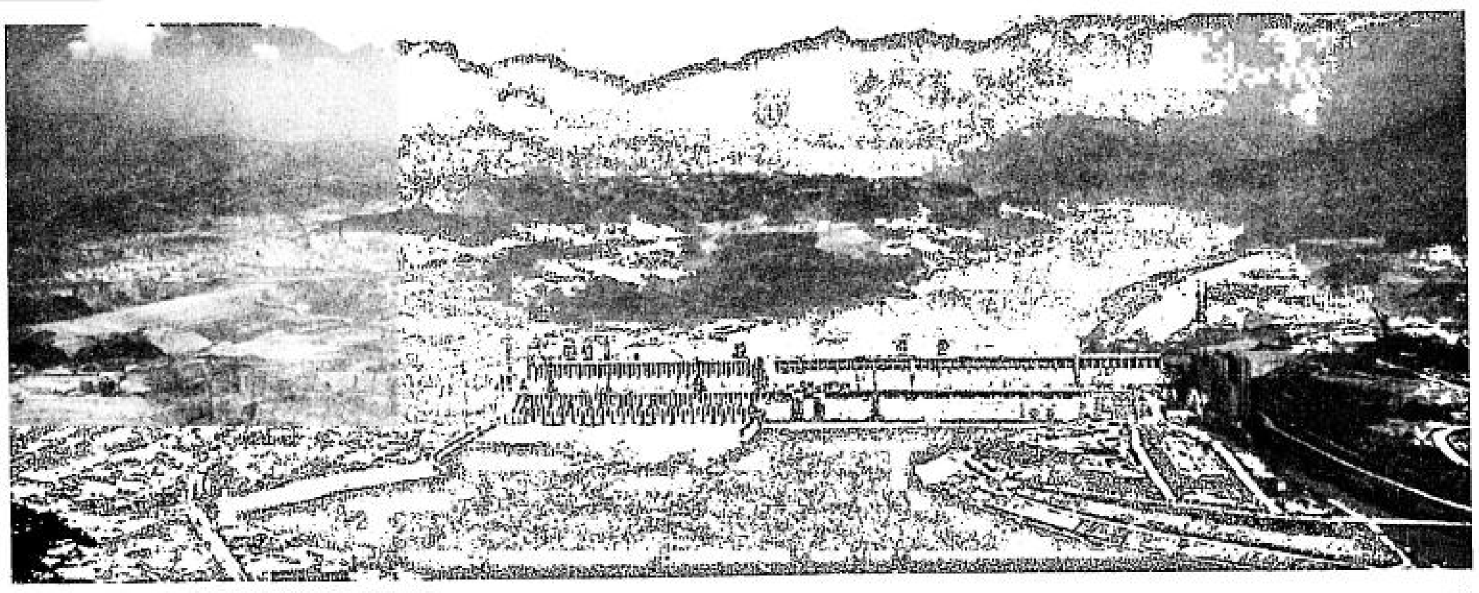
Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators marched on Sunday in Paris in protest against the bill, which would require workers—especially those in the public sector—to stay on the job for more years in order to get a full pension.

On Tuesday, the striking air traffic controllers were to be joined by teachers, who have spearheaded the movement against pension reform and were to stage their ninth walk-out since the start of the school year.

Postal and telecommunications workers also were stopping work.

With the government showing no signs of giving way, the protests could hit a new peak next week when train and Paris metro workers stage an open-ended strike from June 3—even though as the beneficiaries of special pensions regimes, they are not affected by the government's bill.

The government says the reform is essential if the existing "pay-as-you-go" pension system is to survive a looming demographic crunch. It is expected to be approved by the French cabinet when it meets on Wednesday. *AFP*



STOPPING MIGHTY YANGTZE AP

An aerial photo of the Three Gorges Dam in Yichang, Hubei, Central China on May 24. The gates to the massive dam project are expected to be closed on June 1, blocking the flow of the Yangtze river and raising the water level to a height of 135 meters by June 15.

$1-million reward offered for missing 1913 nickel

CONCORD, New Hampshire—A nationwide bounty hunt is under way—with a $1 million reward. The target: a 90-year-old nickel.

After being born of questionable, some say clandestine, circumstances, five 1913 Liberty Head nickels surfaced in the 1920s. Two are in private collections, two are in museums, but the whereabouts of the fifth has confounded collectors for at least 40 years.

"There's a little bit of gimmick to it," concedes Paul Montgomery, president of Bowers and Merena Galleries of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, which is offering the reward. "But it's all about trying to find the coin."

The Liberty Head Nickel was minted from 1883 to 1912, when it was replaced by the Indian or Buffalo Nickel.

Five Liberty nickels, however, were minted illegally in 1913, possibly by a mint official. They were never placed into circulation and for many years were considered illegal to own because they were not a regular issue.

In 1996, Bowers and Merena auctioned one of the 1913 nickels for $1.4 million, the first coin to sell for more than $1 million. It is because of that price that the company is offering at least $1 million for the missing nickel.

"Everybody in the industry would love to see it," said Montgomery.

As one story goes, the coin may have been owned by a North Carolina dealer killed in a car crash in 1962. Part of the mystery is a theory that the dealer was carrying the coin to a buyer named Reynolds.

People have searched the roadside, said Lawrence Lee, curator of the American Numismatic Association Money Museum, which owns one of the nickels.

"He was killed on his way there," Lee said. "Did the Reynolds' family actually get it? Was it in the car wreck?"

Beth Deisher, editor of Coin World magazine in Sidney, Ohio, said a nickel was recovered from the wreckage, but it was not one of the original five. The date had been altered.

The dealer "claimed to have access to the genuine, through a client named Reynolds," she said. "We believe he had an altered date coin he often carried with him and put on display."

Lee said many have claimed to have the missing coin. *AP*

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Gov demands accounting of PNOC funds

By **Joey A. Gabieta**, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

TACLOBAN CITY—Leyte Gov. Remedios Petilla has demanded an accounting from Sergio Apostol of all the multibillion-peso funds used in geothermal energy explorations by the Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp.(PNOC-EDC).

Petilla, who chairs the Regional Development Council in Eastern Visayas, said that since the funds used during these explorations were loans of the national government, it would be proper for Apostol, a former representative of Leyte who now heads the PNOC-EDC, to make transparent the transactions involved.

Petilla also said the PNOC-EDC should exercise caution in its energy explorations as these involve millions of dollars, aside from the fact that they are destroying our environment in the process."

Two months ago, the PNOC-EDC abandoned its exploration in Mt. Lubi, Burauen, Leyte, some 65 km away from here, after it was found to be not viable. The government spent about $1.5 million for the explorations there.

Another exploration is being conducted in Mt. Cabalian, San Juan, Southern Leyte for which the PNOC-EDC will spend some $60 million.

Apostol, when reached for comment, stressed that all the money used by the PNOC-EDC in all its energy explorations have been accounted for. "We observe transparency in all our transactions, including those spent in energy explorations."

Apostol also clarified that the PNOC-EDC did not spend for all the explorations it conducted, as these were all grants from different foreign financial institutions.

Also, Apostol said, that before foreign institutions agree to shoulder their explorations, "they usually asked for our audited financial statements."

Apostol said Petilla could have asked him about the explorations instead of going to the media.

He explained that energy exploration, like a game of chance, "is a hit and miss thing."

"Take the Tongonan. It took 16 (exploration of) wells before we're able to find geothermal energy there," he said, referring to the Tongonan geothermal source in Kananga, Leyte.

Apostol and Petilla both belong to the ruling Lakas party. But a rift may be emerging between the two allies after Apostol, the regional chairman of Lakas, admitted his intention to run for governor, a post to be vacated by Petilla who wants her son, Jericho, to succeed her.

Mothers appeal for peace in Mindanao

INSTEAD OF PLAYING, this boy becomes a baby sitter for his two brothers while his parents are out looking for food in Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte where hundreds of evacuees are staying because of the war.

EDWIN BACASMAS

DAVAO CITY—A group of mothers advocating for peace said it takes more than political will and military might for President Macapagal-Arroyo to resolve the decades-old conflict in Mindanao.

"If there's political will, there is also mother's will," said Irene Santiago, chair of the Mindanao Commission, who spearheaded the Mothers for Peace campaign in Mindanao.

The group is composed of 25 women's organization across the country that convened to make an appeal for the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to renew their peace efforts.

Expressing confidence that they can sway the government's political and military approach to the MILF problem, Santiago said they will hold dialogues with President Macapagal and convince her to stop the offensive against the MILF and talk peace.

The group will report to the President the displacement of thousands of people in Mindanao because of the war.

"We want a ceasefire and let's talk rather than shoot," Santiago said.

She said it was still possible for the government to hold exploratory talks with the MILF, notwithstanding the warrants of arrest issued against the group's chair Salamat Hashim and his officials who have been accused of being behind the twin bombings in Davao City.

Margie Moran Floirendo, vice chair of Mindanao Commission on Women, said their campaign has spread to the national level with various women's groups in Luzon and Visayas joining them.

Floirendo said they would continue to reach mothers across the country and ask them to support the call for peace in Mindanao. *Dennis Jay Santos,. PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Pentagon gang strikes anew

COTABATO CITY—Members of the Pentagon kidnap for ransom gang struck anew Sunday in Central Mindanao and seized a wealthy rice mill operator in Koronadal City.

Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, 301st brigade commander, identified the victim as Leoncio Buenafe, 31, a resident of Purok San Roque and owner of a rice mill in Norallah, South Cotabato.

The Army's 6th Infantry Division has launched a manhunt against the suspects believed to be followers of the Pentagon kidnap for ransom gang leader Tahir Alonto.

The victim, a bachelor, was last seen driving his Honda CRV heading toward Koronadal City at 9 a.m. Sunday. He has not returned since.

Supt. Romeo Rufino, South Cotabato police chief, has led the search and rescue operations.

Police in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao found Buenafe's vehicle abandoned in Barangay Maitumaig. They also recovered the victim's licensed handgun, his empty wallet and other personal belongings.

Supt. Amerodin Hamdag, Maguindanao police chief, has ordered all police stations in the province to launch similar search and rescue operations. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Stop making more state universities, colleges, officials urge

MATI, Davao Oriental—Stop making more state universities and colleges (SUCs).

This was the call of the presidents of state universities and colleges on the country's lawmakers.

The "proliferation" of state schools was cited as one of the reasons the government decided to cut off its subsidy to all the more than 100 SUCs in the country by 2006.

A paper presented by the Mindanao Association of State Colleges and Universities said while SUCs are "created to provide the poor but deserving students access to higher education, (the) government is getting less able to absorb the full cost of operating the ever growing number of SUCs in the country."

Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology President Jonathan Bayogan said because of the subsidy cutoff, state schools are forced to increase fees every year.

"By 2006, the government subsidy to all the state universities and colleges will be cut off totally. There will be no more funds for MOOE (maintenance and other operating expenses) and capital outlay," Bayogan said.

This year, he said, the government had already stopped giving the P1-million capital outlay to every state school.

He said Congress "ignored" the moratorium being called by the Office of the President for it to stop creating more state schools.

Bayogan said there are many provinces where SUCs are "sprouting."

"There's no need to create more than one state school in every province," he said.

"The creation of more SUCs is indeed detrimental to us because we are already scrambling for a very meager budget coming from the national government," he added.

He said SUCs are forced to increase tuition as a "way of generating income in light of the government's diminishing subsidy." *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Prayers called for ailing Bacolod Bishop Fortich

By **Carla P. Gomez**
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra yesterday called for prayers for Bishop Emeritus Antonio Fortich, who is being kept alive through a respirator at the Riverside Medical Center in Bacolod City.

"I am calling for prayers (so) that he will not suffer from his present situation," Navarra said.

"Who knows, God might give him a miracle. It is difficult but he might recover," the prelate added.

Fortich, 89, was in the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital from April 28 to May 16, but has since been transferred to a private room.

In November, Fortich suffered a mild stroke from fatigue and was hospitalized for about 10 days.

When Fortich returned home to the Domus Dei where he lives in Bacolod City, he lost weight because he gradually found it difficult to swallow his food. In February, he was hospitalized again for two weeks.

The bishop recovered and was still ambulant when he went to Dumaguete City over the Holy Week to visit an ailing sister.

On his return, his situation worsened and he had to be hospitalized again.

"He has lost his capacity to breath on his own. That is why we have put him on a respirator," Dr. Angel Araneta, Fortich's attending physician, explained yesterday.

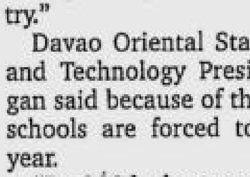
Fortich had a tracheotomy to allow a tube to go down the trachea to provide a breathing channel.

The well-loved Fortich was a vocal critic of the government during the Marcos regime.

He was also at the forefront of the anti-poverty campaign in Negros Occidental. He retired as bishop of Bacolod in 1989.

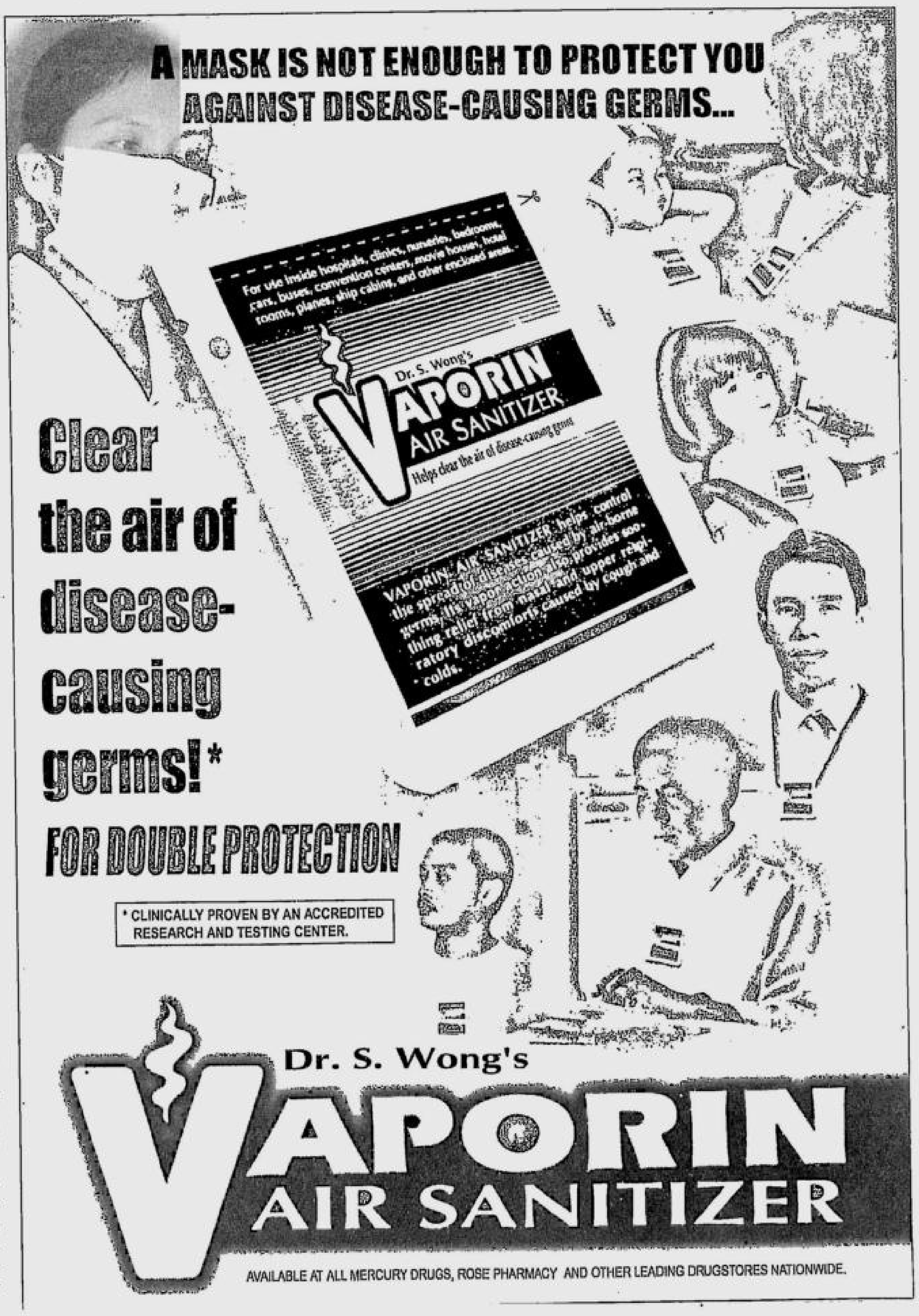
But retirement did not extinguish Fortich's feisty spirit. "The struggle for justice and freedom, especially for the poor, is not excluded from the package of retirement," Fortich had said shortly after he retired.

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT IS exactly 380 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.



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Bohol governor faces graft charges

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado is facing graft charges before the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas for printing P700,000 worth calendars to allegedly enhance his political career.

The complaint was filed by Zacarias Daquio who described himself as a "retired government employee, a taxpayer and a concerned citizen."

He accused Aumentado of violating provisions of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

Also named respondent in the complaint was Engineer Edwin Vallejos, Provincial General Services Office (PGSO) chief.

In his affidavit, Daquio claimed that the calendars were "being used for the advancement and promotion of (the) political career" of Aumentado who was expected to run for reelection in next year's election.

Daquio noted that the calendars were distributed and displayed not only in government offices but also in private offices as well as a number of residential houses and business establishments.

The governor, however, said the charges were politically motivated considering that Daquio was identified with his political rival, former Bohol Gov. Rene Relampagos.

"My conscience is clear. I have never been involved in any anomaly. I am not afraid," Aumentado told the INQUIRER on Monday.

He maintained that the calendars were information materials geared to promote the province as the country's prime tourism destination.

The governor said the calendars featured, among others, the province's ecotourism destinations, cultural heritage and the famous Loboc Children's Choir.

He admitted that his "small" photo was in the calendars as chair of the Regional Development Council and Regional Tourism Council.

In an affidavit, Daquio said that last Dec. 19, 2002, Aumentado approved a job request by Vallejos for printing and reproduction of 50,000 pieces of "Provincial Government Information Materials."

Daquio said the disbursement voucher approved by Aumentado, also dated Dec. 19, 2002, showed that the cash advance was to be made in relation to the WOW Bohol tourism 2003 calendars.

Daquio alleged that the printing and reproduction of the calendars run counter to a decision of the Commission on Audit dated Jan. 18, 1996.

"While it is true that every agency of the government is supposed to render report of its respective accomplishment, the same should be done thru a formal and inexpensive report and not by way of distributing calendars," Daquio quoted the decision as saying. *With a report from Connie Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Doc charged with sexual harassment surrenders

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The doctor who has been accused in the landmark sexual harassment case is now finally in jail.

The Supreme Court ordered the arrest of Dr. Rico Jacutin after denying his motion for reconsideration.

Jacutin, the former city health officer here, was found guilty of violating sexual harassment law or Republic Act 7877 on March 2002.

The Supreme Court sentenced Jacutin to six months imprisonment, a fine of P20,000 and P50,000 in damages.

Senior Supt. Antonio Montalba, acting city police chief, told the INQUIRER that Jacutin voluntarily went to his office even before he received a copy of the warrant of arrest.

Montalba turned Jacutin over to the Lumbia City Jail on Thursday. Jail warden Felixberto Jagorin placed Jacutin inside the youth offenders' cell due to health reasons and upon his physicians' request.

But Reynaldo Llego, legal counsel of Juliet Yee, who filed the case against Jacutin, feared that some special treatment might be accorded Jacutin inside jail.

"I hope he would be treated like all the inmates there," Llego said.

Yee said the SC's decision has helped her cope with her traumatic experience.

"Finally, I could really say that justice still works for the poor. I am relieved and it is something I can tell my children that fighting for justice still works in this country. I hope this could deter would-be perpetrators and stop those who have been harassing their subordinates," Yee said.

Jacutin was accused of harassing Yee, who was then applying for a position at the city health office. Jacutin touched Yee's body while he was conducting a "physical examination" inside his vehicle in 1995.

Yee is still waiting for the final decision of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) on the administrative case that she filed against Jacutin. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

RP's oldest war vet is 105 years old

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
PDI Mindanao Bureau

KABACAN, North Cotabato—Tatang Juan's still brawny physique and complete set of teeth conceals his age. Save for lost of memory of his prime days and his filmy eyes, nobody would think that the man is already 105 years old.

And on his 105th birthday celebration last Sunday, Tatang Juan Ugay Balanag, the oldest World War II living veteran in the country, had the most wonderful bash ever.

His daughter's birthday wish was for him to find another wife.

But laughing, the old man said: "*Andyak makayan. Haanin* (I can't do it anymore. No more)."

Tatang Juan was hailed and called "Bayani" (hero) by his colleagues, the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO), and the Department of National Defense.

The celebrator even got a birthday cake from Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes. Among the birthday gifts Tatang Juan also got was PVAO's remittance-arrearages amounting to P170,000.

Tatang Juan was born in Aringay, La Union on May 25, 1898. Because of poverty, he never got himself to school and later in his youth, indulged in farming as other Ilocanos did.

Asked what he could remember before the Japanese occupation, he said: "*Agpastor ti nuwang* (I lead carabaos to pasture areas)."

Alejandra, 67, Tatang Juan's eldest daughter, said her father was working with a gold mining company in Usok, Baguio when the Japanese invaded the Philippines in 1941. At that time, his family was in Pangasinan.

As the country and its defenses slowly collapsed, many Filipinos were forced to fight the invading armies. But many Filipinos, whose lives were shattered by their enemy's strength, were killed on mere suspicion of being guerrillas.

After the fall of the gold mining company, most workers who were suspected to be rebels were killed one by one.

Her father, Alejandra said, was one of those tagged as such.

But she said her father was forced to join a group of guerrillas after some Japanese soldiers killed her brother, then a nine-year-old boy. That time, she said, the Japanese had suspected that her father was a rebel.

"They were actually looking for my father. They killed my brother because my father wouldn't show up. The Japanese were insisting that he was a guerrilla but he was not," she said.

The Japanese, she said, used the bayonet in killing her brother. After her brother's death, Alejandra said, her father joined the underground movement against the Japanese.

"*Tinutuo na lang nya ang bintang sa kanya* (He made good the accusations against him)," she said.

In 1943, Alejandra said, the Japanese captured her father in their home in Pangasinan where the latter was secretly staying after months of hiding and fighting the Japanese.

Some of the villagers, she said, most of them men, were forced to gather at the town plaza and were hogtied together. But Tatang Juan, and two of his cousins, managed to slip by jumping into a river. Those who were not able to escape faced their death, she said.

While fighting the invaders, Tatang Juan said his fear vanished, replaced by anger of the enemy and the determination to fight for the sake of his fellow Filipinos.

"*Wen, addu met ti napaltog ko* (Yes, I killed many)," he said.

"*Simarding ak d'yi nagawid d'yay Amerkano* (I only stopped when the Americans went home)," he added.

Alejandra said their father reunited with them only in 1945, after the liberation.

"All that Tatang Juan did was in response to our country's call for sacrifice . . . only those who truly love this country can respond to that call. All veterans are this country's heroes. They who served and fought for this country are our heroes," Col. Wilfredo Pavalan, PVAO administrator, said.

A document from PVAO showed that Tatang Juan served as a sergeant under the 2nd Service Company, QMS. He was inducted into service on May 31, 1942 under the United States of America Forces of the Far East (USAFFE). He was honorably discharged on June 27, 1946.

In 1949, Tatang Juan, with many other Ilocanos, migrated to Mindanao. After long years, he finally got his first check amounting to P4,500 from PVAO in April 2001.

Albay mayor allocates ₱1M against drugs

TABACO CITY—Due to an alarming drug problem here, Mayor Alex Burce vowed to allocate P1 million for their campaign against illegal drugs. This developed after the city council here expressed alarm over the rising incidence of drug cases. The local police led by PO3 Ferdinand Telado arrested three suspected drug pushers in a series of raids and buy-bust operations last week. Supt. Eleazar Bron, chief of police, identified those arrested as Benito Baluncio, 41, his brother Joenes, 33, and Aquiles Nares, 32. Bron told members of the council that they had already identified the financier of the illegal drugs trade here. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROCO delivers "SONA" at Int'l Management School

Former Senator and Education Secretary Raul Roco will deliver his own version of the "State of the Nation" at the 23rd commencement exercises of the International Academy of Management and Economics (iAME) at the Manila Hotel Fiesta Pavilion on July 3, 2003.

The iAME, a pioneer of global business education in Makati, through its president-COO, Emmanuel "Doy" Soriente-Santos II, announced the acceptance of Raul Roco who was invited by unanimous vote of the graduating class of 2003 according to class president Gerry Tan Tee, an entrepreneur and top executive of Lucio Tan group of companies.

Lawyer Emmanuel Noli Tiu Santos, Ph.D., chairman-CEO of International Academy of Management and Economics, will introduce Senator Roco who was his colleague in the 1970-73 Constitutional Convention. Other Con Con delegates from different regions of the country led by former NFA administrator Emil Ong and former ADB legal counsel and NHI director Pablo Trillana III, will attend as special guests.

Also to grace the occasion are Katrina "Katya" Santos, an alumna, and Maui Taylor, an undergraduate student at iAME who will serve as masters of ceremonies. Karen Aquino, Bb. Pilipinas-Universe 2002, will co-introduce Senator Raul Roco.

Commencement speakers in previous years were Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, first as DTI undersecretary and then as vice president, then Senate President Aquilino Q. Pimentel, then Philippine Ambassador to US Ernesto Maceda, DTI Secretary Jose Concepcion, Vice President Salvador P. Laurel, PNP Chief Ping Lacson, PNP Chief Hermogenes Ebdane, and Parañaque Congressman Eduardo Zialcita, an MBA and Ph.D. in Management graduate of iAME.

iAME is affiliated with Warnborough University of Oxford, England, University of Southern Queensland, the multi-awarded,and accredited leading distance-learning university of Australia, and Global Alliance of Transnational Education (GATE), USA. iAME is a long-standing institutional member of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, the European Chamber in the Philippines, and lifetime patron and sponsor of the Philippine Council of Management (Philcoman).

Recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) are all degree programs of iAME - Diploma in Management, BSBA major in Management with focus on Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Finance and Investment, Economics and Banking, B.S. with focus on Integrated Communications; Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Ph.D. in Management.

The globally-oriented iAME is ISO 9001-2000 certified quality institution of higher learning by Germany's leading International Standard Organization, the TUV Management Service GmbH. iAME boasts of international lecturers and students.

iAME held its first graduation rites at Hotel Miramar in Hong Kong with foreign dignitaries and multinational executives in attendance. Its 22nd commencement rites were held in Panda Hotel, Hong Kong early this year with the Philippine Consul General, Victoria S. Bataclan as commencement speaker and Consul Ma. Theresa B. Dizon-de Vega as guest of honor.

iAME is accredited by the Civil Service Commission, Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, Professional Regulation Commission, and the International Accrediting Commission, USA. iAME is a US-embassy preferred company. A number of iAME graduates are currently employed by the US federal government.

The International Academy of Management & Economics is located at Noli Santos International Tower at corner 1061 Metropolitan Avenue and Chino Roces Avenue, San Antonio Village, Makati City through telephone nos. 896-23-58/55, telefax 896-23-51; and e-mails chairman@iame.edu.ph or nolisantos2002@yahoo.com.

ADVT.

Radioman's political ally survives blast

By Michael Jaucian
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CAMALIG, Albay—Just 28 days after the killing of veteran Albay broadcaster and former Camalig vice mayor John Villanueva Jr., his closest political ally, Councilor Lerma Camba, cheated death when her house was rocked with a bomb explosion about 2 a.m. on Monday.

Luckily, Camba said, when the incident occurred, she was staying with a friend, The rest of her family were in the island-municipality of Rapu-Rapu in Albay because their house was under renovation.

"As a public servant, I have done nothing wrong and in fact, I'm doing what is best for my constituency. I have no idea why they (want to) kill me and bomb my house," the councilor said.

Camba suspected that the incident had something to do with the killing of Villanueva, who was earlier gunned down by still unidentified suspects, which militant groups claimed was the handiwork of the Philippine Army.

Denials

The Army, however, vehemently denied the accusations, saying they were looking for a possible political angle in the case.

Camba made the statement following reports that there are still four persons rumored to be killed after Villanueva.

Sr. Insp. Pio Herrera, Camalig police chief, said the still unknown culprits used an improvised bomb, not a hand grenade because the house was not totally wrecked.

As of press time, police were still digging into the identities and motive behind the bombing.

During the 2001 elections, Camba was in Villanueva's lineup when the latter ran for and lost the mayoral post.

ROUNDUP

Libel charges OKd

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Office of the City Prosecutor has approved the filing of libel charges by Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado against his predecessor and two staff members of a Cebuano weekly newspaper. Aumentado filed the complaint against ex Gov. Rene Relampagos and Ven Arigo and Reigh Monreal, chief of reporters and managing editor respectively of Atong Balita Sano, as an offshoot of two stories in the Oct. 10, 2002 issue of ABS written by Arigo involving alleged irregularity in the province's P53 million equipment deal and an article which alleged that the governor "conspired" with a quarry operator. *Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Tax liabilities

DUMAGUETE CITY—The city government here demanded from Vallacar Transit Inc., owner of a fleet of Ceres buses operating in the Visayas and Mindanao, over P2 million in tax liabilities for an undeclared number of buses operating in the city. The city treasurer's office said the company paid mayor's permit and annual fixed tax for only 25 units in 2001 and 2002 when it has more than 100 units. The company pays P500 in mayor's permit and P1,000 annual fixed tax for each unit. The bus firm has agreed to pay the needed fees for I07 units but bulked on the city's demand to pay about P2 million more for the undeclared number of units since I996 when the Omnibus Tax Ordinance took effect. Lawyer Nehemias Vidal, legal counsel of Vallacar here, said the city's P2 million claim might be too much. He however, said that the company is open for discussion on the issue.
Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

Soldiers needed

CATBALOGAN, Samar—The Philippine Army's 8th Infantry Division announced that it needs 150 new soldier-trainees. Lt. Ma. Trifona Umbac, acting spokesman of the 8th ID, said they are calling on those who have passed the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Aptitude Test Battery (AFPATB) to proceed to the 8th ID headquarters in Camp Lukban, Catbalogan to process their applications. Qualified applicants must bring the original and Xerox copy of their: Birth certificate; high school/college diploma; parents' marriage contract; certificate of parents' consent and of being single attested by parents/guardians; clearances from the barangay, mayor's office, police, Regional Courts and the National Bureau of Investigation; and a full-body picture (two copies). Other interested applicants shall secure authority to take the AFPATB from the AFP's Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel.
Marc Villavicencio, PDI Visayas Bureau

Hospital hailed

VILLASIS, Pangasinan—The provincial government and the regional Department of Health have commended the Villasis Polymedic Hospital and Trauma Center here for its efficient handling of the first Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome case in the country. During the hospital's fourth anniversary celebration on Tuesday, Gov. Victor Agbayani awarded a plaque of commendation to the hospital for the "steadfast decision and noble action of the hospital management and staff in attending to a case of SARS and implementing the necessary precautions and measures to prevent its spread." Dr. Eduardo Janairo, regional DOH director, assured the hospital of assistance to enable it to recover from the stigma caused by admitting Adela Catalon, the first SARS fatality in the country, on April 12. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Theft case vs 3

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Charges of qualified theft were filed Tuesday in Bataan against three employees who stole nearly P3 million worth of construction materials from a company reportedly owned by a businessman close to the First Family. The National Bureau of Investigation in Central Luzon filed the complaint at the office of the provincial prosecutor on behalf of the Subic-Hermosa Cyber City Development Corp. (SHC-CDC) and its owner, Rogelio Serafica. Samuel Fiji, NBI regional director, identified those charged as Emmanuel Balutoc, SHCCDC project engineer; Roderick Tabios, foreman; and Lazaro Lucob, instrument man. The three were accused of stealing 48 tons of scaffoldings and metal frames on April 1-4 and April 15.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Wanted man held

CASIGURAN, Sorsogon—Casiguran police led by Sr. Inspector Eduardo Santiago arrested the town's most wanted person who was attending a disco on Saturday night in Barangay Tulay. Arrested was Rommel Grecia, 39, and a resident of the same place. Grecia had been charged before the 5th Judicial Regional Branch Nos. 52 and 53 for murder and frustrated murder, respectively.
Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Hot logs seized

SORSOGON CITY—Some 1,230 board feet of suspected illegal lumber were seized by police and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office personnel on Wednesday in barangay Lajong, Bulan, Sorsogon, a police report said. The lumber, locally know as "bagliw" or "tabgon," worth P60,000, were seized from a furniture shop owned by a certain Maria Ballesteros. The seized lumber were turned over to Bulan police for safekeeping, and a case of violation of PD 705 was prepared for filing in court, police said.
Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Delayed payment

TABACO CITY—Seven telephone lines in the city's Hall of Justice were disconnected on April 21 for failing to pay the March and April bills. The Hall of Justice houses four regional trial court branches, a municipal trial court, library, office of the clerk of courts and the maintenance division of this city. Engr. Ma. Teresa Laude, Hall of Justice's chief maintenance division, said the SC's committee on Halls of Justice is in-charge of paying the bills. The Hall of Justice have experienced telephone disconnection thrice for failing to settle their accounts with Bayantel.
Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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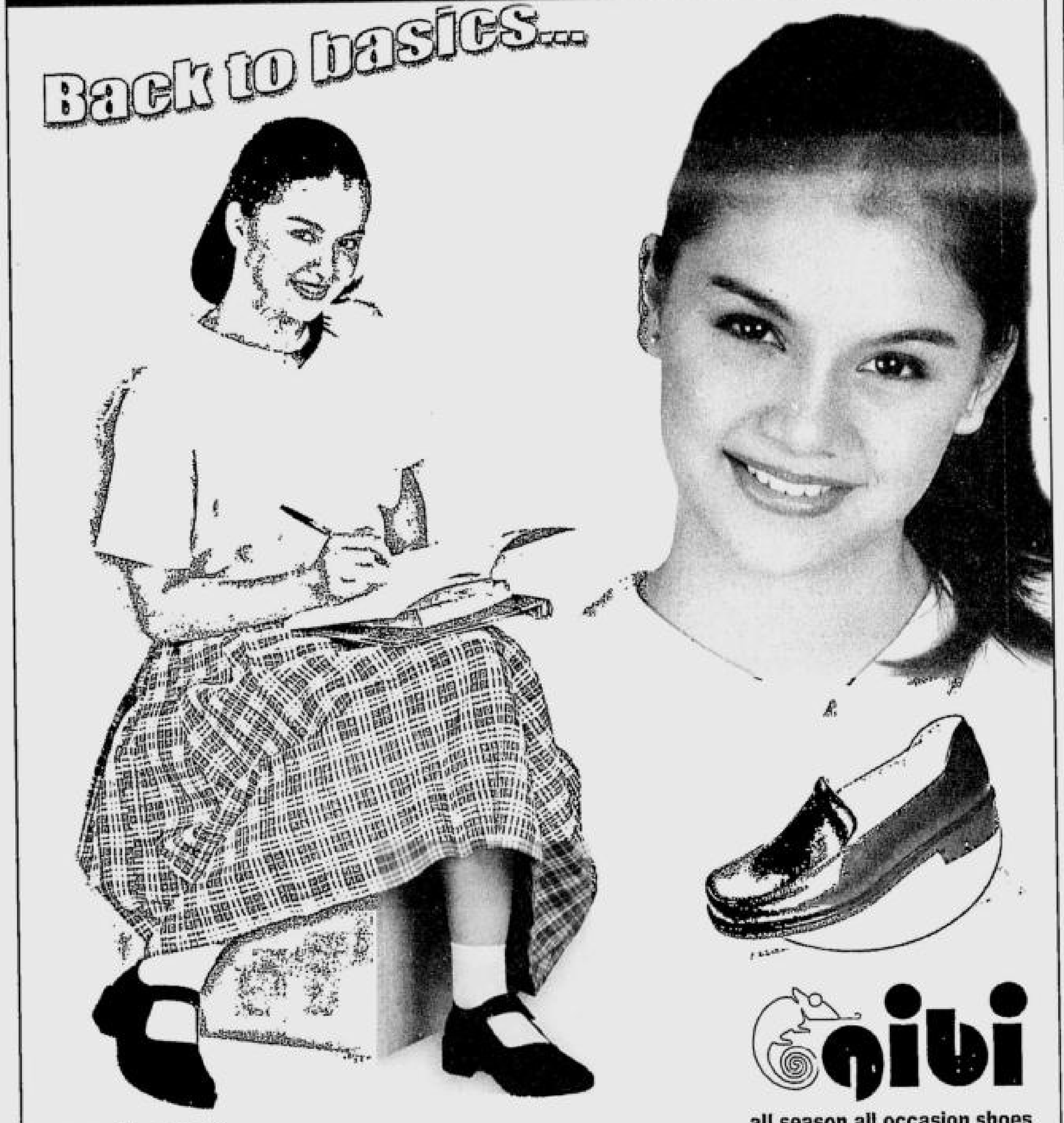

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INQUIRER *Northern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Rolando B. Fernandez**

Aeta tribe fights displacement

By Ansbert Joaquin
Morong, Bataan

"Kayong mga lahi ko, ganito ang inyong gagawin habang panahon. Kayo'y laging magmahalan, magtulungan, magmalasakit at igalang ninyo ang lupaing ibinigay ko sa inyo. Tamnan, alagaan at ipasa-alang-alang (ang lupang ito), at ito ay pagyamanin at ariin ng lahat. Ang mga sinabi kong ito sa inyo ay mananatili magpakailanman."

LOLA Mhoray, a 123-year-old Magbikin Aeta and wife of Apo Ali-phon, recited this prayer more than 100 years ago in Morong, Bataan, as her children and grandchildren, right hands on their chests, dipped (*kanaw* in Tagalog) their left hands on the Kabuyaw River. The descendants swore to respect Lola Mhoray's will.

In memory of this event, the Magbikin Aeta tribe named the 165 hectares of land on which they now live as Kanawan. While the tribe is now scattered in at least 19 sites in Bataan, Kanawan, one of the four sitios in Barangay Binaritan, in Morong, is home to the largest number of the Magbikin families at 49.

Kanawan is not accessible to vehicles, yet it is only a 45-minute walk from the nearest road at the foot of the Bataan Natural Park.

The Magbikin tribe is headed by a chieftain and six council members. The council, composed of elected members, is the highest policy-making body in the community. Their language is also called the Magbikin.

Ninety percent of the tribe depend on traditional livelihood as hunters and fishermen. Others are engaged in cultivating various crops, small-scale livestock breeding and gathering of honey in commercial quantity for their subsistence. Fifteen members are employed in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone as members of the maintenance staff or forest rangers.

While its practices, culture and traditions are similar to other Aeta tribes, little is known about the Magbikin and its history. Two studies, which were compiled by the ecology center of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, though conflicting in some historical accounts, provide vital information.

Both studies agree that the Magbikin's history in the last century was characterized by fierce struggle for its right to a land they call home. And amid the bitter and sometimes violent political struggle, there have always emerged elders who strive to preserve their culture.

Divided

Once a blissful and united community in the Boton area inside the former American-run Subic Naval Base, an Aeta tribe was divided in two, according to Leonila Tamundog, a community member in her mid-80s (she cannot now recall her exact age).

"We separated with a heavy heart because we have relatives from both camps. But that was the order so we obliged. We follow first before we contest, so we landed in Sitio Lemon," Tamundog recalled.

Her group went to Sito Lemon, while the other group went to Pastolan, now known as the Pastolan Village inside the Subic freeport.

None of the elders now could explain the reason behind the separation, but former chieftain Eulalio Malicsi corroborated Tamundog's account.

MORE permanent materials for a new hut are what an Aeta Magbikin family wishes for at the relocation site in Sitio Kanawan, Binaritan, Morong, Bataan, aside from a permanent place to stay.
PHOTOS BY ANSBERT JOAQUIN

YOUNG Aeta children no longer look like their forefathers as a result of intermarriages.

Now 70, Malicsi said his tribe had ancestral rights over a large portion of the freeport, including the Boton area.

"We were first in Boton. Then the first group went to Pastolan and our group went to Lemon," Malicsi, the grand old man of the Magbikin, said. He said this division was done in 1927.

In the 165-ha Sitio Lemon, they hunted for food, practiced self-governance and lived in peace that was interrupted only by the coming of the Japanese during World War II. Not even the war, though, could displace them from their new-found land.

In the mid-1970s, then First Lady Imelda Marcos, who was scouting for an area to house the Vietnamese "boatmen" (refugees who had fled communist rule in Vietnam on boats) visited Morong and liked the place.

A historical account done by a Philippine Women's University student claimed that Marcos had ordered the military to clear the area to make way for the construction of the Bataan Refugee Processing Center.

"They drove us away, saying the government had taken over our land. We asked them what we would do with our crops, our land. They promised us that we would be paid but we were not paid even with a single centavo," Tamundog lamented.

Malicsi recounted being offered compensation for the land in Lemon, which he declined, explaining that what they needed was a piece of land where they could live to hunt and plant.

As a tribal chieftain then, Malicsi led his people in the struggle to protect the land, but his tribe was no match to the military and the Marcos regime.

Realizing that they could no longer hold on to their land, the tribal elders sought to enjoy even just an access to the trees and plants for their food. Even this was never granted.

From Lemon, members of the Magbikin were driven to the upland Sitio Timak where they suffered from lack of water supply.

Malicsi then looked for another place and saw one still rich in natural resources. He started to plant root crops as the other members followed him. They now call that place Kanawan.

That's the only the part of their history that the living elders can tell.

An account of a research paper being developed by the SBMA Ecology Center tells of repeating tales of dislocation of Aeta families from the time of Apo Ali-phon and Lola Mhoray, the first recorded Aeta spouse from Zambales to set foot in Morong. Why they resettled in Morong from Zambales is not yet clear.

From Sitio Mabayo, the couple and their family were forced to transfer to Sitio Anito when a group of lowlanders that they called *indios*, who were themselves allegedly driven by the Spaniards from their original dwelling, encroached on their forest home.

Another account tells of fierce fighting between Apo Ali-phon's descendants against another group of lowlanders in a place called Bayan-bayanan. Many Aeta, including children, were killed, forcing them to retreat.

Negrito reservation

In 1987, then President Corazon Aquino issued Proclamation No. 192 declaring a 165-ha piece of land in Kanawan as a Negrito reservation.

It granted the Aeta the right to protect, conserve and develop Kanawan's natural resources. The entitlement is, however, good for only 25 years and will expire in 2012.

But even now, this entitlement cannot be enjoyed in full by the Magbikins for various legal reasons. Some *matatalinong unats* (wise lowlanders), as the Aetas call them, have claimed portions of the reservation.

"The government gave us this land, but we didn't know that some people who have land titles are claiming this area. We cannot till our farms because there are people who are claiming these," Tamundog said.

"How can we fight them if we do not possess titles? Educated people are truly different from the ignorant," she added.

Still they are not giving up on their claim to ancestral rights over a large portion of the now booming Subic freeport.

Traditional rice varieties still best for terraces

By Maurice Malanes
Banaue, Ifugao

DESPITE the promise of better yield from hybrid, if not genetically engineered rice, traditional rice varieties remain the best for the centuries-old Ifugao terraces, according to a new study.

Carefully selected by adept traditional seed collectors, mostly women, indigenous rice varieties have remained productive and in top quality, said a study by the European Union-funded Central Cordillera Agricultural Program (Cecap). The Department of Agriculture has helped oversee the program since 1996.

Cecap, whose management office is based in Banaue, Ifugao, has sent experts to study what ails the rice production in the province and other rice-terrace farming communities in central Cordillera. Their findings: Ifugao and other Cordillera farmers have actually mastered efficient methods of selecting and preserving top-quality rice seeds.

During harvest in Ifugao, for example, one to three women would first select seeds from healthy and robust rice plants, which have good stands, fuller grains and which have no dark spots. They would first harvest the carefully selected grains, which are segregated before the whole rice field is harvested.

Cecap experts say such traditional seed selection is as scientific as the way modern rice breeders do. This selection method, they say, also explains how and why Cordillera farmers have maintained their hold and control over their seeds for generations.

The Cecap study noted how some farmers in Kiangan town have tried in their terraces some modern varieties such as the IR64, which failed because every cropping the farmers have to buy their seeds from lowland seed producers. The farmers eventually lost control over their seeds, which are the basic elements in the food chain.

In terms of seed quality, traditional rice varieties are still the best for the highlands, the study says.

So if traditional rice varieties are excellent, what explains the low economic returns from and the deteriorating rice production in the famed Ifugao terraces and other less known terraces in the highlands?

The solution lies in improving traditional rice cultivation techniques and, at the same time, building on the "best indigenous rice technologies" of Cordillera farmers, the study says.

The study consolidated both the best practices of farmers and experiences of Cecap and local government technicians.

A technique Cecap experts introduced, which is now gaining adherents in the village of Paniki in Hungduan town, is transplanting seedlings earlier than what farmers normally do.

Farmers in Ifugao and elsewhere in the Cordillera usually plant their seedlings one to two months after germination. Cecap found the practice less productive because seedlings transplanted late don't tiller (produce extra shoots) much, thus giving less yield.

Cecap experts piloted the technique of transplanting 10-day-old seedlings in Paniki, Hungduan, and noted a 20-percent increase in yield.

According to Cecap, Paniki farmers have adopted the technique and are themselves promoting it now among other farmers.

Better yield

The early transplanting technique and other "indigenous best practices," such as using decomposed sunflower leaves and azolla (a water-flowing weed) as fertilizer, have given farmers better yield, says the study.

To help lighten their workload in preparing their land for planting, Cecap also introduced a handy machine called microtiller, which is smaller than a hand tractor.

The microtiller proved efficient in saving labor hours. It can do in three days what a farmer can do manually in 51 days. It is easy to disassemble so farmers can carry it from one terrace to another.

To promote the use of the machine, Cecap trained some local fabricators to manufacture the machine, except its engine, which is supplied by the Philippine Rice Research Institute.

To prepare the fields for planting, the farmers trample on rice hays with their feet, burying these into the mud. It takes 51 labor days to prepare a hectare of rice terraces this way.

MARZAN makes herself busy through bead-making and other hobbies.
TOOTS SOBERANO

Meet 'Minda's Buddies'

HOMETOWN *Snapshot*

IN THE American film "Pay It Forward," the character played by actor **Kevin Spacey** asked his students, child actor **Haley Joel Osment** among them, to think of a project that would make the world a better place to live in. Osment thought of paying it forward—he would help three people, and each of them would have to help three others, and so on.

This is exactly what **Ma. Leonora "Noney" Marzan** realized about her bout with breast cancer. Noney, now 44, has been struggling with breast cancer (second stage) for two years now. She said the conditions of cancer patients and survivors in Baguio City that she saw and experienced first-hand had motivated her to put up a support group for cancer survivors.

When Noney was diagnosed with the disease in June 2001, friends and even strangers sent financial support for her chemotherapy sessions. Paying it forward now, she said she looked at people around her with similar experiences and tried to make a difference in their lives, not just through material things but more importantly, through encouragement.

It is through this belief and encouragement from her oncologist, **Dr. Felina Adefuin**, and some friends that she put up the support group called "Minda's Buddies." The group was named after a cancer victim who had touched her life.

Early this year, **Minda Uligan**, who was dying of breast cancer complications, called up Noney and told her she wanted to be a member of the group.

Noney welcomed Uligan and told her she would be the first honorary member of the group. Uligan, who has since died, became the group's inspiration and decided to honor her by naming their group after her.

This was how "Minda's Buddies" was born, Noney said. The group is an informal social group for cancer survivors and patients, medical practitioners and others interested to join.

Noney, the facilitator, said her group was affiliated with the First Cancer Group Coalition. The group is advocating self-empowerment of cancer patients.

Aside from demanding the best quality cancer care and treatment, the group is also pushing for a more "patient-centered" rather than a "disease-centered" approach where doctors mainly address the body organ affected.

"We should be treated as people—human beings primarily, and not as diseased entities. We can still live productive lives. It (cancer) isn't a death verdict," Noney said. *Ivy Lou Obillo and Katherine Ann Bustamante*

US pouring money, guns into Mindanao

From page A1

grams covering the Moro National Liberation Front, and $30 million in "economic assistance ... to support peace in Mindanao."

Ms Macapagal also said 15,000 M-16 rifles, worth $10 million, would be arriving in the country soon, adding to the 15,000 rifles already delivered in April.

Last week in New York City, Ms Macapagal told reporters that US military aid to the Philippines had grown to more than $100 million yearly from $1.9 million three years ago, and was set to rise even higher.

Before the Philippine Senate rejected a new lease on the US bases in 1991, chilling bilateral ties, Manila received about $200 million a year from Washington.

Balikatan 03-1, which will involve the deployment of American military advisers and trainers in Sulu where the remaining Abu Sayyaf bandits are based, is expected to start either late June or early July.

"During my state visit to Washington, President [George W.] Bush and I reaffirmed our commitment to destroy the ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) once and for all," Ms Macapagal said.

Ms Macapagal said the $47-million budget would fund the first 45 days of the exercises.

The United States is also providing $2 million for "Sulu rehabilitation"—presumably civil works projects to be implemented after the joint exercises. Another $4 million has been allocated for Basilan island, site of last year's Balikatan 02-1.

In her speech, Ms Macapagal itemized the components of the defense and military package, including:

- The provision of 33 helicopters worth $31 million and spare parts worth $10 million.
- An additional $20 million in foreign military assistance for the maintenance of Huey helicopters, C-130 cargo planes, M-35 trucks and patrol vessels.
- Counterterrorism aid of $30 million in the US supplemental budget for foreign military assistance, to train and equip light reaction companies and battalions, and Navy SEALs.
- The allocation of $17 million more in foreign military assistance in 2004 "in the proposed [US] budget which," the President noted, "can still be increased."
- A budget of $10 million to "provide significant security assistance, training, equipment and law enforcement assistance to support the Philippines in the war on terror." Ms Macapagal said the Americans earlier gave the country 500 armored vests under the Mutual Logistics and Support Agreement.
- $25 million to train and equip a military engineering brigade "capable of performing civic action and humanitarian projects in conflict areas."

In her accounting, Ms Macapagal also included the amount proposed in the bill the Bush administration filed with the US Congress seeking new benefits to Filipino war veterans: a total of $76 million.

She also noted the allocation of $500,000 yearly for the use of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, in Quezon City.

"President Bush emphasized that the United States will continue to provide significant security assistance, training, equipment and law enforcement assistance to support the Philippines in the war on terrorism," Ms Macapagal said, noting that Bush now classified Manila as a "major non-Nato ally"—a diplomatic status that allowed deeper access to American military resources.

"In summary, the Philippines is receiving a minimum of $356 million in defense and security assistance," the President said, without, however, giving a timetable for disbursements.

The Navy rites coincided with the second anniversary of the Abu Sayyaf raid on the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan on May 27, 2001.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, said the rebel group would decide whether to meet government conditions only after "all leaders and political officers meet." The government has laid down four conditions that the MILF must satisfy to escape a "terrorist group" classification.

If MILF leaders agree, their reply would be submitted to the Malaysian secretariat, "which will forward it to the Philippine government."

In Pikit, North Cotabato, a priest devoting his time to displaced families issued an urgent appeal to the President to prevent more deaths among the affected families.

"This is urgent, a very urgent call, because the number of people dying continues to rise," Fr. Robert Layson, OMI, parish priest of Pikit, said. The death toll had risen to 61 with the latest fatality dying on Tuesday, he said. *With reports from AFP, AP; Julie S. Alipala and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PDI sweeps ...

From page A1

body for the JI, whose first monthly nationwide issue is due out on Saturday.

JI contributor Francisco Dipasupil Barros, 14, won the Outstanding Child Writer award for his article, "Goodbye, Mom," published on Feb. 2, 2002.

Former PDI Lifestyle writer Cathy Babao-Guballa won two awards: a special citation as Feature Writer on Children in the national broadsheet category and an award for Outstanding Story on Children for her piece, "Nicole, 9, mom to her brother, fights for her life." (It appeared on Page 1 of the INQUIRER on Sept. 13, 2002.)

The winning pieces of Barros and Guballa were both fueled by the painful loss of a loved one.

The award-giving body was formed to recognize the crucial role of the print media in promoting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is supported by the Unicef and PPI in cooperation with the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication and Philippine Information Agency.

The Mindanao Daily Mirror won Child-Friendly Newspaper of the Year in the community daily category. Two of its people—Jesus Manuel Torrento and Ana Theresa Basilio—were named Best Feature Writer on Children and Column Writer on Children, respectively.

In the community weekly category, Batangan won the Child-Friendly Newspaper of the Year award. Stella A. Estremera of Sun.Star Davao Weekend, a former PDI correspondent, was named Best Feature Writer on Children for the second time.

Losing a mother...

Barros, eldest son of the late journalist Sonia Dipasupil-Barros, is an incoming high school freshman at the Ateneo de Manila University.

"They say writing is a place where you can express [yourself], so with my writing I expressed what I felt about my mom's passing away," he said.

"My [aunt] wanted me to write a story that chronicled what happened during those painful times."

Barros said winning the award was his "second most pleasant surprise" in the last two years, the first being getting published.

"I knew that there were many who also gave their best, and I gave up hoping [that the article] would come out after waiting for almost three months," he said.

"Ironically, it was on my birthday when it finally saw print. I was convinced it was my mom's birthday gift to me."

Barros thanked "all those people responsible for it all," primarily his mother, "a great journalist in my book, for inspiring me to write."

"It's been almost five years since we lost her but she's still a constant presence," he said.

He also named his family, as well as his late grandfather Francisco "Kiko" Dipasupil, a president of the National Press Club, "from whom I probably got my writing genes."

...And a son

Guballa said she was offering her award to her son Migi, who passed away five years ago when he was 4 years old.

"It was my son who gave me the inspiration to write about children," she said. "He died very early, so he gave me the compassion to be able to relate to children."

This compassion has led to the establishment of the Migi's Corner Foundation Inc., which is devoted to uplifting the lives of young patients in government hospitals.

The foundation has set up eight Migi's Corners in the pediatric wards of government hospitals.

The same compassion was also behind Guballa's story on 9-year-old Nicole Figueroa, who became a "mom" to her baby brother Kevin after their mother passed away. Nicole was diagnosed with AML leukemia six months later.

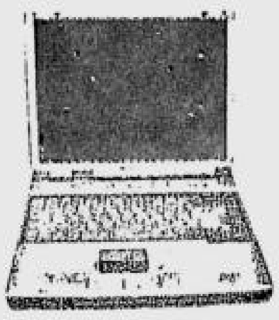
"They were hard up," she said of the Figueroas. "They needed to raise a lot of money for the bone marrow transplant. I just wanted to help them raise that money so that Nicole could have her operation."

Guballa eventually wrote a series of three articles on Nicole.

"So many kind hearts responded," she said, and enough money was raised for the surgery that Nicole had to endure twice.

"Among all the stories that I've written, it's my stories that further the cause of children that are very dear to me," Guballa said. "They're my favorites. That's why it's really meaningful to me that I got this kind of citation, this kind of award."

Then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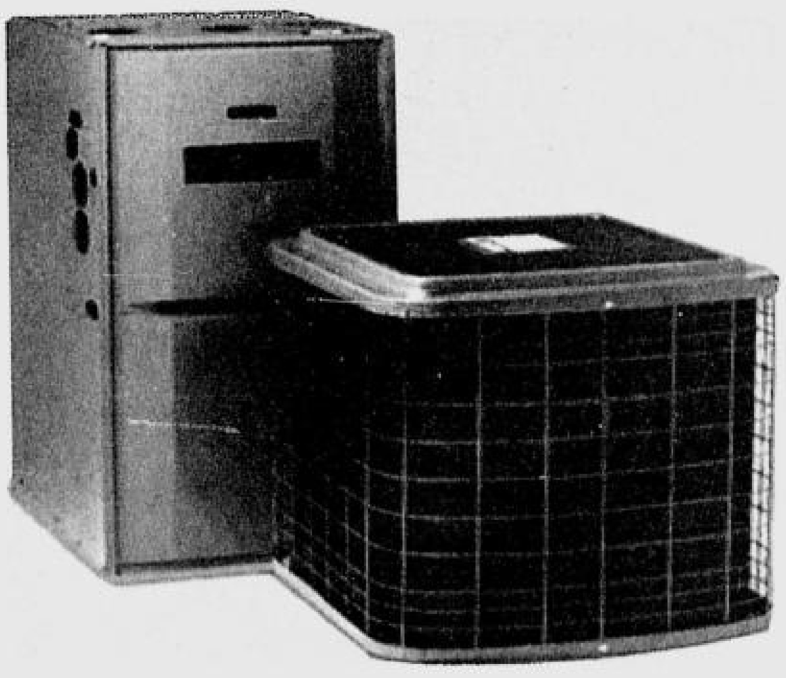
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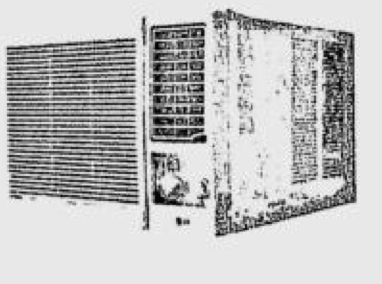
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‘Terrorists in robes?’

From page A1

Ang, a newspaper publisher and public relations practitioner who used to be the personal publicist of President Macapagal-Arroyo, called for a cleansing of the judiciary and the legal system, saying that problems such as corruption and incompetence were acting as barriers to the country's economic development.

"We have allowed a kind of legal terrorism to encroach upon the legal system and the practice of law," Ang said in his speech, "Terrorist in Robes," during a meeting of the Philippine Constitutional Association in Makati City.

Ang noted that US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone himself had previously complained about corruption in the judiciary, saying this discouraged foreign investments in the country.

"Whether it's money or friendship, this kind of legal terrorism frustrates the ends of justice and tilts the balance in favor of the rich, the powerful and the well-connected," Ang said.

Naia Terminal 3 case

Ang said there was also a wide perception that there is "no consistency in the decisions of the Supreme Court."

He cited as an example the controversial ruling of the high court nullifying the contract of the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) to build and operate Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Ang said the high court rejected the contract even though Terminal 3 had already been completed and could have started operations last December. He said the government had even received some P480 million and another P300 million from Piatco as rental payments for the first year.

"According to experts, the court decision is grossly flawed, inconsistent and it violates the Constitution and the BOT (build-operate-transfer) law," Ang said.

Ang said the construction of Terminal 3 did not cost the Philippine government a single centavo and would provide the country with a world-class airport facility that would be owned by the government after a period of time.

"Why then, most Filipinos ask, did the Supreme Court void the contracts?" Ang said.

It had been rumored that Ang was a public relations consultant of Piatco but Ang strongly denied this.

Favoritism in courts

In his speech, Ang also noted other problems like the intrusion of the courts into economic decisions best left to the executive branch and the difficulty of filing cases against perpetrators of graft.

He pointed to the apparent favoritism in appointing members of the judiciary, saying the Judicial Bar Council has apparently become an "Old Boys' Club."

‘Chedeng’ slices through Luzon; 7 killed

From page A1

did not die despite being also buried in mud," he said.

Neighbors took the mother, her two children and their playmate to the Taytay Emergency Hospital. Angelica was later moved to the SLMC.

In Old Baguyo, Meycauayan, Bulacan, fishermen recovered Monday night the body of 2-year-old Juan Ebañez. Senior Supt. Felizardo Serapio, Bulacan police director, said the boy might have been left by his parents in the company of other children.

In Marilao town, Crislyn de la Cruz and her playmate identified only as Mary Grace, both 13, drowned in a river in Barangay Tabing Ilog.

The girls were last seen Sunday afternoon swimming in the river in the heavy rains. Their bodies were recovered at about 5 p.m. on that day.

In Barangay Minien West, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan, Virginia Salud and Arthur Sinugat were killed and their companion, Alvin de Leon, was hurt when a branch of a mango tree fell on the jeep they were riding in.

In Sual town, a crew member of a fishing boat has been reported missing.

The man, identified only as Nelson, was sleeping aboard the FV Legriv anchored at Sual Bay when strong winds and waves battered the boat at 5 a.m. yesterday.

In Itogon, Benguet, three people were hurt yesterday when they were buried in a mudslide.

In Metro Manila, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said 12 barangays were flooded in Valenzuela and floodwaters had risen to six feet at the Sto. Niño de Leyte shrine in Diliman, Quezon City.

In Central Luzon, the OCD said 5,670 families in four towns in Bulacan were affected by floods.

At least 50 families in Barangay Pandayan in Meycauayan left their homes when the floodwaters rose to four feet.

Two to four feet of floodwaters were also reported in the towns of Marilao, Bocaue, Balagtas and Obando.

Pangasinan, Baguio

Police said the stretch of the MacArthur Highway passing through these towns had become impassable for light vehicles.

Chedeng uprooted hundreds of trees in Pangasinan, but there were no reports of widespread flooding except in Dagupan City and Labrador.

Up north, regional civil defense director Vicente Tomazar said Kennon Road, the shortest route to and from Baguio City, was closed to traffic at 8:30 a.m. yesterday.

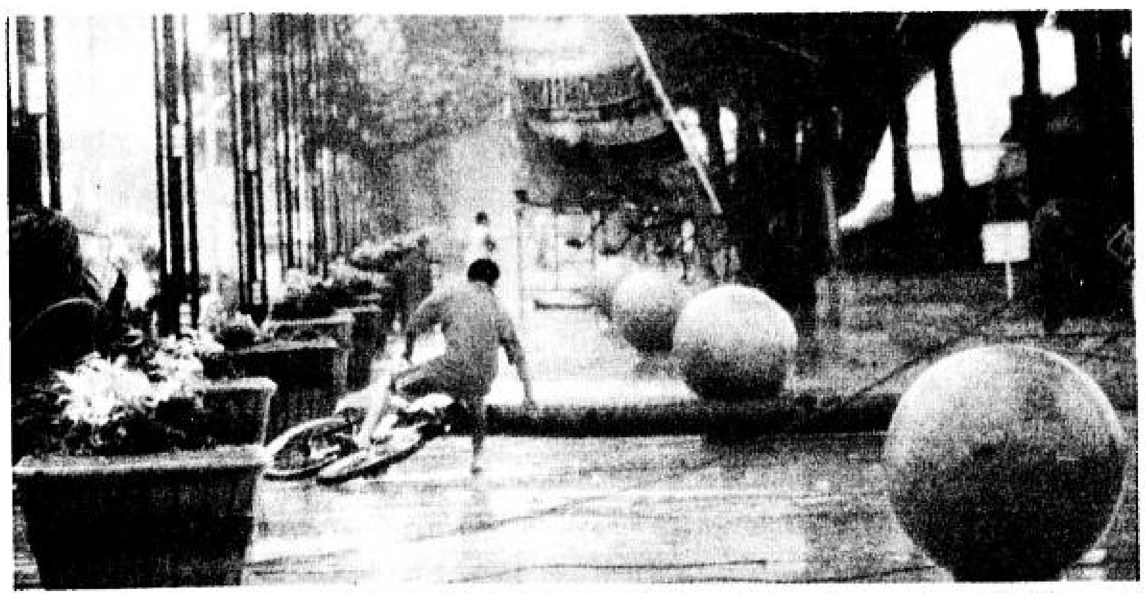
But the other major routes to and from Baguio and Benguet, like the Marcos Highway, Naguilian Road and Halsema Highway, remained open to traffic, he said.

Pampanga

In Pampanga, center of the basin-shaped Central Luzon, no serious flooding was reported.

The floodwaters in some 50 low-lying villages were less than six inches high, according to the provincial disaster coordinating council.

In the city of San Fernando, the bad weather forced officials to postpone the plan to make and display what was intended to be the largest *longganiza* in the country.



CHEDENG'S fury punishes Roxas Boulevard, toppling trees, lampposts, billboards and a man on his bike. AP

Florita Villar, director of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Central Luzon, said the agency had prepared at least 1,500 food packs for contingencies. The DSWD has a P1.5-million budget for relief operations.

In Zambales, the Zambales Electric Cooperative (Zameco) shut down its National Power Corp.-fed transmission lines on Monday because of strong winds.

Zameco manager Roselyn Gutierrez said there was no power in the towns of Botolan, Iba, Palauig, Masinloc, Candelaria and Sta. Cruz.

Officials reported that a highway in Botolan was closed to traffic because of five-foot floodwaters.

Reports also said strong winds toppled electric posts in Subic. At least four villages in the town were affected by flash floods.

Residents in Old Cabalan in Olongapo City expressed fears of a landslide after they noted rocks falling from upland areas.

Police also alerted residents living near the city dump, warning that the heavy rains could trigger a garbage slide.

Dams at spill level

The OCD reported that the 10 dams it was monitoring were nearing spill level.

It said the Ipo Dam, with a spill level of 101.1 meters, was causing the biggest concern.

According to the National Disaster Coordinating Council, the areas that may be affected in case the La Mesa Dam spills over are the Tullahan River in Quezon City, and Malabon and Valenzuela.

But it said the opening of the dam gates would depend on the inflow of water. *Reports from Nelson F. Flores, Martin P. Marfil and Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila; Carmela Reyes, Tonette Orejas, Cesar Villa and Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; AFP*

Officer axed even before probe starts

From page A1

Lista said the Coast Guard in Coron also failed to check whether the names on tickets really belonged to those who held them.

Authorities have found that at least 16 people, whose names appeared on tickets, did not actually board the San Nicolas. Others boarded in their place.

Lista said Magallado was not relieved because of the collision. "I am relieving him and whoever was on duty at the time the MV San Nicolas left Coron for incompetence," Lista said.

"But I would like to clarify that there was nothing they could do to avoid the collision. But they should have checked the manifest and verified if it was true," he said.

Lista said allowing passengers not on the manifest to board a boat was contrary to the policy of the Coast Guard. "Our policy is no ticket, no boarding," he said.

Coast Guard officers are supposed to be present during the boarding of a ferry to check whether it meets requirements and is seaworthy before it is allowed to set sail.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes suggested Monday that the captain of the San Nicolas crashed his vessel into the side of the Super Ferry 12 while he was trying to avoid a collision.

"But how it happened, that is the subject of the Board of Marine Inquiry. I cannot say anything more at this stage," Lista said.

The Board of Marine Inquiry is set to summon within the week the captains and crew members of Super Ferry 12 and the San Nicolas, Coast Guard officials said.

Face-off

"They [captains of both ships and their lawyers] will have to face each other," a probable member of the board told the INQUIRER.

Also yesterday, Coast Guard officials began preparing the subpoenas for those to be summoned. "Both sides may present their witnesses, or we may call upon witnesses ourselves," a Coast Guard official said.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza gave Coast Guard officials until Monday to finish the probe, although Ms Macapagal herself gave them 15 days to come up with a report.

Commodore Damian Carlos, district commander of Central Luzon and National Capital Region, was designated chair of the inquiry.

But members of the board were called to the office of Rear Admiral Domingo Estera [whom Carlos earlier replaced in the board] supposedly to talk about how to go about the inquiry.

Lt. Armand Balilo, Coast Guard information officer, said Carlos was already conducting a fact-finding inquiry "for Coast Guard consumption."

"Commodore Carlos and the intelligence unit have been gathering data from testimonies of survivors and witnesses since Sunday evening," Balilo said.

What Carlos gathered could be used during the BMI deliberations, the Coast Guard information officer said.

Sea Lanes

Vice Admiral Reuben Lista said sea collisions and other accidents could be avoided had the "Sea Lane" project been set in place. The sea lane is an imaginary highway to be built along narrow channels like the Manila Bay and the Mindoro and Mactan straits.

Using radar, global positioning systems and radio, the Coast Guard can immediately inform incoming and outgoing ships about their positions and advise them on what courses to take to avoid collision.

"It remains on the drawing board because right now it is not our priority. Besides, it is very expensive, perhaps costing billions of pesos," Lista told reporters.

The Coast Guard's priority now is to buy high-tech search and rescue vessels like the BRP Ilocos Norte, according to the Coast Guard chief.

‘Chedeng’ on way out

CHIEF state weather forecaster Prisco Nilo said Chedeng was expected to dump more rains before fizzling out by tomorrow.

"We expect improvement in weather conditions within the next two or three days," he said. "We will still have rain but not as much as [in] the past two days."

Public Storm Signal No. 3 is in effect over Pangasinan, La Union and Ilocos Sur; No. 2 over Ilocos Norte, Abra, Benguet, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Zambales; and No. 1 over the rest of Northern and Central Luzon.

Pagasa said Chedeng had been gaining strength in the last 24 hours as it slowly moved closer to Pangasinan.

At 10 a.m. yesterday, its center was estimated at 70 km west of Dagupan.

It was forecast to be at 30 km north-northeast of Dagupan or off the coast of La Union by this morning; at 120 km north of Casiguran, Aurora, or within the vicinity of Palanan, Isabela, by Thursday morning; and at 310 km northeast of Casiguran by Friday morning.

Small comfort

A WOMAN was so relieved when an infant brought to a morgue in Manila did not turn out to be her daughter.

"I am thankful that the dead infant is not mine," Marilou Santillan told the INQUIRER in a phone interview after visiting the San Lorenzo Funeral Homes. Her 18-month-old daughter Angela Marie has been missing since Sunday.

The other day, she recalled how she asked a Chinese-looking man to hold her daughter while she put on a life jacket. The two jumped off first, leaving her behind. Marilou said that was the last time she saw her daughter.

After 36 hours . . .

From page A1

found the Super Ferry rafts, but no survivors. The Super Ferry 12, the bigger vessel, had lowered the rafts, hoping that they would be found by survivors.

If a survivor clings to this kind of raft, he or she can survive for at least 72 hours as it has food and water rations, according to officials.

While relatives of the missing continue to hope for miracles, some are beginning to accept that their loved ones may not be coming home alive. Worse, they may never be seen again.

"It will be so much better if we see them alive," said Leticia Llamera, an accountant with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. "If not, at least we could retrieve their bodies."

Llamera was referring to an aunt, three cousins and a provincemate—who had yet to turn up in the Coast Guard's list of those who either survived, or died. She already lost a cousin, Melody Abin.

Among the missing are Segunda, Charlene, Enelyn and Charisse Ann Abin; Mary Elizabeth Odasco; Christel Ann Barot, an 8-year-old who came to Manila to attend the wake of her father Nathaniel; Sheila Sabang of Bocaue, Bulacan, and Imelda Cabrito.

Imelda's husband Jesus said he last saw his wife when they jumped off the sinking boat.

Llamera, together with a brother, went to Coast Guard headquarters yesterday to check news from authorities.

"With these conditions, I don't think anyone could still survive," Juan Llamera said.

BRP Edsa Dos

At around 6 a.m. yesterday, the BRP Edsa Dos and the BRP Kalinga were ordered to resume the search, but tropical storm "Chedeng" forced them to seek shelter in Cavite and Bataan, respectively, Vice Adm. Reuben Lista said.

The Ilocos Norte was also given orders to help in the search and rescue operations, but it could not leave the Coast Guard port in Manila because of strong winds.

Lista said the vessels were all equipped with radar, but visibility in the seas was almost zero.

"We cannot lower our rafts. Our two vessels were forced to seek refuge in Mariveles, Bataan, and Sangley Point in Cavite," Lista said. "We will resume the operations when possible."

At the Coast Guard station in Cavite, the 21 survivors who were brought there after their rescue were released on Monday, according to Lista.

Relatives of the missing passengers had hoped that their loved ones were among those brought to Cavite. None of the missing were among those brought to Cavite.

"If a relative whom you believe is missing shows up, let us know. Call us or visit us here," Lista said.

Survivors of the 25 people who died are set to receive P100,000 each in insurance. The Maritime Industry Authority has set up an action center inside its headquarters on United Nations Avenue in Manila to help process insurance claims.

Relatives of those who died in the sea collision may reach the action center at 524-2895.

Arnie Santiago, head of the complaints and investigation division of Marina, said his office had directed its personnel to help the victims.

"I sent them to the Ambassador Funeral Parlor in Caloocan so they could tell the relatives of the victims what documents to prepare," Santiago said.

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Luck spares RP from catastrophe of earthquakes

From page A1

at 740 kph crashing into shore. More than 3,500 people were killed and whole villages were washed away. A 7.7-magnitude earthquake in 1990 killed nearly 2,000 people in Luzon.

Northeastern Japan

Monday's quake in northern Japan was estimated at a potentially disastrous magnitude of 7, more powerful than the ones that hit the Philippines and Algeria. But only minor injuries and cracked plaster were reported, underscoring how disaster readiness and good luck helped Japan avert catastrophe.

When Pachinko Dynamite in downtown Sendai lurched side to side and then jolted up and down, for example, hard core fans kept pumping coins into the pinball-style gambling machines under the haze of cigarette smoke as the emergency lights came on.

"It was the biggest earthquake I've ever experienced," said manager Yoshiki Okada. "But most people kept playing like nothing had happened."

Experts attributed the minimal to detailed emergency plans in the city of 1.2 million, high-grade construction standards and good luck. Minor temblors continued to shake northeastern Japan on Tuesday, more than 12 hours after the initial earthquake set off landslides, causing a temporary blackout in 35,000 households and leaving more than 100 people with minor injuries.

But experts warned that Japan—notoriously susceptible to quakes and whose crowded capital is well overdue for the Big One—may not be so lucky next time.

Like the Philippine quake, its Japanese counterpart caused minimal damage because the epicenter was at a very deep spot, about 70 km underground. In contrast, the Algerian quake was focused just 10 km underground.

"If it (Japanese quake) had been shallower, it could have been a major disaster," said Yoshimitsu Okada, a seismologist at the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention.

A 7-magnitude quake can cause major damage over a widespread area. More than 6,000 people were killed in the western city of Kobe when a 7.2-magnitude quake struck there in 1995.

Kazuo Tanaka, section chief of Sendai's 31-member disaster reaction task force, said Algeria's shoddily built homes were more likely to crumble in a quake that Japan's modern buildings could better weather.

"We've got a lot of experience with earthquakes and have built that into our lives," Tanaka said.

From childhood, all Japanese also are drilled on basic earthquake safety points, such as turning off the gas, watching out for falling roof tiles and being prepared for tsunami, the earthquake-induced waves that can sweep away cities.

Indonesia

In Indonesia, officials said a 6.4-magnitude earthquake rocked a northeastern island on Tuesday, killing a 3-year-old boy and damaging more than 100 homes. The quake struck at 4:23 a.m. (1923 GMT) and was centered in the Halmahera Sea.

The boy was killed and five others were injured when a wall in their house collapsed on the island of Morotai, about 2,500 km northeast of the Indonesian capital of Jakarta.

Handi Sulistion, an official at the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency, said that 20 houses across the island were destroyed while 117 homes were slightly damaged.

Like the Philippines and Japan, the Indonesian archipelago is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire." Ringed by volcanoes and shaped like an arc, the zone stretches from New Zealand, passes through Indonesia, the Philippines and Japan, extends north to Alaska, and traverses down along the western coast of North and South America.

Tectonic plates underneath the zone constantly shift and collide, producing earthquakes and causing volcanic eruptions.

An earthquake measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale also shook Taiwan on Tuesday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

The quake struck at 10:40 a.m. (0240 GMT) with its epicenter 12 km northeast of the Suao port in northeastern Ilan county, the Seismology Center said. The tremor originated 84 km below sea level.

Taiwan, highly prone to quakes with the Pacific plate and the Philippine plate rubbing against each other, was hit by a 6.8-magnitude quake last Sept. 16. A temblor of the same magnitude on March 31 killed five people in Taipei.

The Taiwan temblor was preceded by three minor earthquakes in northern California, including one centered just west of the Golden Gate Bridge. *Reports from AP and AFP*

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How to win:
Instant Prize:
a. Scratch off the three (3) big boxes to reveal the following Unilever and Caltex products: Cream Silk logo (three 10mL. sachets); Caltex fuel (P100.00 worth); Caltex fuel (P50.00 worth); Caltex (P10.00 worth); Caltex Lubricant (P20.00 worth)
b. If the three (3) big boxes reveal the same items, you win the prize indicated on the card.
c. Instant prizes can be claimed at any participating Caltex station from Monday-Friday, from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, upon surrender of the winning game card.
d. Instant prizes are not convertible to cash.
e. The P20 Caltex Lubricant instant prize cannot be used to redeem 200mL., Caltex Revtex 250, Caltex 2T oil and battery water.
f. Game cards are subject to validation by the authorized Caltex station representative. Only winning cards with authenticated security code will be honored. Crumpled, defaced, torn or with scratched security code game cards ("void if scratched" box) will be disqualified.
g. Instant prizes may be claimed until 60 days from the end of the promo or until November 26, 2003. All unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of Caltex (Philippines) Inc. with prior approval of DTI.

Raffle:
a. Fill-out the raffle coupon. Indicate your name, address, tel. no., and/or cell no. and affix your signature on the raffle stub.
b. Drop entries in drop boxes located at any participating Caltex station.

Monthly Raffle:
a. There will be three (3) monthly draws: four (4) major prize winners and 40 consolation prize winners to be drawn in each monthly draw.
b. Entries will be clustered into four (4) groups: GMA, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.
c. Allocation of prizes per area are as following:
- Major Prize Winners: one (1) will be picked from GMA, one (1) from Luzon, one (1) from Visayas and one (1) from Mindanao.
- Consolation Prize Winners: two (2) will be picked from GMA Pasig, Mandaluyong, Pateros, Marikina, Rizal, Manila, San Juan, Makati, Pasay City, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela; two (2) from North Luzon (Ilocos, Mt. Province, Abra, La Union, Benguet, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Ifugao, Isabela, Quirino, Kalinga Apayao, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Aurora, Pampanga, Tarlac, Bataan, Zambales, Bulacan, two (2) from South Luzon (Batangas, Cavite, Mindoro, Laguna, Quezon, Palawan and Marinduque); two (2) from Visayas & two (2) from Mindanao.
d. The major prize winners will be announced over Caltex's "Win Wheels Baby, Win!" segment in EAT BULAGA, GMA 7's noontime TV show and will be notified through registered mail and telephone.
e. The major prize winners wins a cash prize of TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) and will be treated to four days and three nights accomomodation for two at a hotel in Manila, with land, sea or air transport and dining privileges. Additional trip prize package is transferable, but is not convertible to cash.
f. Consolation prize winners in P5,000.00 cash.
g. Only winning entries with the authenticated security code will be honored.
h. Non-winning entries in each monthly draw will no longer be included in the succeeding monthly draws but will be qualified for the grand draw.
i. The major prize winners will also play in Caltex's "Win Wheels Baby, Win!" Segment within EAT BULAGA, GMA 7's noontime TV show. He/She has the option to let another person play in his/her place, provided a written agreement is submitted to Caltex prior to the "Win Wheels Baby, Win!" game proper.
j. Before the Win Wheels Baby, Win! game proper the major prize winners will also be interviewed by the network to determine his/her interests and profile. Thereafter, a fitting "Win Wheels Baby, Win!" game mechanics, questions and challenges will be tailor-fit based on information secured.
k. The major prize winners will also be asked to accomplish a waiver stipulating that they are in good health, condition to participate in any game challenge he/she is tasked to accomplish.
l. Agreements on any winnings will be between the major prize winner and the authorized person to play in the game which will be indicated in the agreement with the authorized player to be submitted to Caltex. In case there are no specific instructions in the agreement regarding in sharing of any winnings, the prize will be awarded to the authorized player.

Schedule of raffle draws and game:

Period Covered	Deadline of Submission	Draw Dates	Schedule of "Win Wheels Baby, Win"
1st Draw: May 26 to June 29	June 29	July 9	July 18, 25, Aug. 01, 08
2nd Draw: June 30 to July 27	July 27	Aug. 6	Aug. 15, 22, 29, Sept. 5
3rd Draw: July 28 to Aug. 24	Aug. 24	Sept. 3	Sept. 12, 19, 26, Oct. 3

Game Mechanics:
- In the game proper, contestant will be presented with Seven (7) Caltex brands' logos - Caltex, Vortex, Power Diesel, Star Mart, Star Card, LPG, and Caltex Delo.
- All seven (7) boxes contain different number of keys ranging from one (1), to three (3). To wit:

1 Box - 3 keys
3 Boxes - 2 keys
3 Boxes - 1 key

- Contestant will choose three(3) boxes. Inside the boxes are questions or challenges that the contestant must do to earn the money and the number of chances to pick from a bowl of keys.
- Contestant will then position the boxes in the P20,000; P35,000; and the P50,000 slots.
- Contestant earns the cash and the number of chances to pick from a bowl of keys, if he answers the questions or is able to do the challenge. If the contestant is not able to answer any of the three questions or challenges, the contestant receives P10,000 consolation prize, plus one (1) chance to pick from a bowl of keys.
- For the jackpot round, contestant picks from a bowl of fifty(50) keys. The number of times that he/she will draw were already discussed in the former provisions.
- Only one (1) of the fifty(50) keys is the key to the jackpot prize.
- Contestant tries his/her luck to start the engine of the jackpot prize.
- Should it start, contestant drives home the Brand New Mitsubishi Adventure GLS Sport!

Grand Raffle:
a. There will be one (1) Grand Draw to be held at the end of the 12-week "Win Wheels Baby, Win!" at EAT BULAGA.
b. The grand draw will simply be a showcase of the drawing of winners and culled from the entries received within the promo period. All non-winning entries on the monthly draws plus entries submitted from September 1 to 26, 2003 will be segregated into GMA, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao for the grand draw.
c. Entries will be clustered into three (3) groups: GMA and Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.
d. Prizes at stake include:
- Seven (7) brand new Mitsubishi Adventure Super Sport
- Fifty (50) winners of P5,000 each
e. Allocation of winners per area are as following:
- Adventure: three (3) will be picked from Luzon (includes GMA, North & South Luzon); two (2) from Visayas and two (2) from Mindanao.
- P5,000.00 Cash: thirty (30) will be picked from Luzon (includes GMA, North & South Luzon, ten (10) from Visayas and ten (10) from Mindanao.
f. Drawn winners will be notified through registered mail and telephone.
h. Schedule of the grand draw is:

Period Covered	Deadline submission of Entries	Draw Date
May 26, 2003 to September 26, 2003	September 26, 2003	October 10, 2003

2. Customer can only win one weekly prize during the promo period and can only win once in the grand draw. In case the winner gets drawn again on the same draw date, he/she gets the bigger prize.
3. Prizes, can be claimed upon presentation of one (1) proper identification (i.e. driver's license, passport, etc.) and notification letter.
4. Prizes may be claimed at 7/F 6750 Ayala Ave., 1226 Makati City Philippines from Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm only. Consolation prizes can be claimed at the nearest Caltex station specified in the registered notice.
5. Prizes can be claimed within 60 days of notification. All prizes unclaimed will be forfeited in favor of Caltex (Philippines) Inc. with prior approval of DTI.
6. Caltex shall shoulder the 20% tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.00
7. Employees of Caltex (Philippines) Inc., participating Caltex stations Caltex lubricant distributors, LPG dealers, affiliated Advertising Agencies, Caltex promotions and partner agencies, suppliers and all their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle promo.
8. Promo period is from May 26, 2003 to September 26, 2003

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SIX DIGIT
3 1 5 2 4 6

SUERTRES (In exact order)
0 4 8

6/42 Luzon
6 10 17 21 23 35

Vis-Min
2 3 9 13 33 34

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

10-hour nightmare

Floods stall traffic on NLEX

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

GOING from Muñoz in Quezon City to Valenzuela on Monday was a six-hour, butt-numbing ride after heavy rains turned a section of the North Luzon Expressway into a virtual waterworld, stalling traffic for eternity.

Vehicles in the area from the Balintawak Toll Plaza to the Valuenzuela exit, or what commuters still refer to as Malinta, were at a standstill for several hours as floods raged in the Lawang Bato area of the NLEX in Bulacan.

The tail end of the traffic jam reached as far as the north-bound lane of Muñoz in Quezon City.

This reporter was on an Olongapo City-bound Saulog Transit Bus which he boarded at 9:30 p.m. in front of the SM Annex.

At 11:00 p.m., by which time he would already have reached San Fernando, Pampanga, the bus was still at the Balintawak Cloverleaf, the gateway to the NLEX.

In the next three and a half hours, the bus would inch its way to the North, reaching the Valenzuela exit at 3:30 a.m., turning the trip into a six-hour bus ride from the SM Annex to Malinta.

The Philippine National Construction Co. said the traffic jam was caused by the flooding of the expressway in the vicinity of the Lawang Bato tollgate, a temporary exit after Valuenzuela. The section was impassable for hours even to trucks and buses.

"This was the first time this happened. It's already morning, and we haven't even reached Malinta," said the exasperated Saulog driver, as he stared at the serpentine sea of tail lights in the horizon.

He only had five passengers, including this reporter, in his cozy bus. The air-conditioning was freezing cold and the spanking grey leather seats were tempting, and all five passengers turned the bus into a rolling hostel, their bodies outstretched in the seats and their bags serving as their pillows.

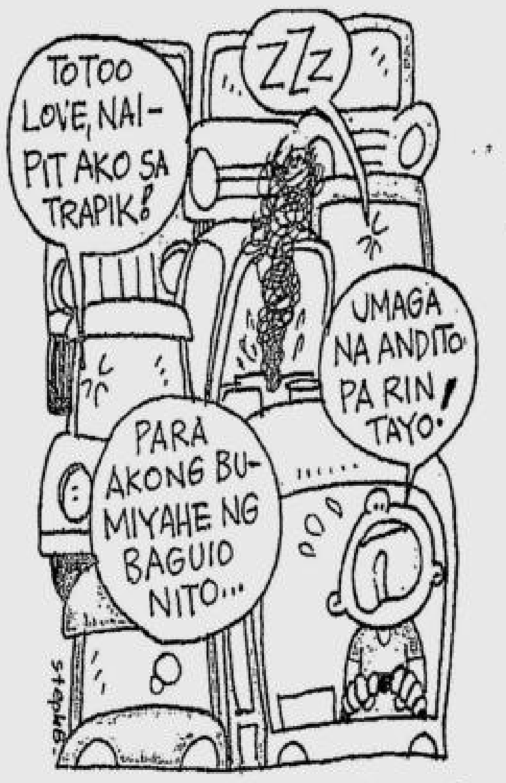
On the shoulder of the expressway, vans and cars were parked, their drivers probably too tired or sleepy to step on the pedals and shift the stick or maybe thinking turning back to Metro Manila (But how? There are no U-turns in the NLEX).

Some vehicles simply stalled because of overheated engines and other troubles brought about by the rains.

Still, the majority of motorists pushed on; they had no choice because they had to go home to their worried families.

Drivers of buses and delivery trucks knew there was no turning back as they have a job to finish.

Commuters, some still in office uniforms, in mini-buses and jeepneys bound for Valuenzuela and the nearby towns of Bulacan wore the look of weariness on their faces. Some looked out the windows trying to figure out the mess, while others simply slumped on their seats in surrender.


TOTOO LOVE, NAIPIT AKO SA TRAPIK!
ZZz
UMAGA NA ANDITO PA RIN TAYO!
PARA AKONG BUMIYAHE NG BAGUIO NITO...
stephi

At about 4 p.m., the fiftysomething Saulog driver was getting grouchy; anybody driving in those conditions would have gone crazy.

"Something's wrong with the brakes on the left side. The battery is not charging because we're running too slow. The air-con has run out of fuel," he muttered.

He could have been imagining things, because the bus, No. 766, looked new and well maintained.

Along the way, this reporter spotted two stalled Victory Liner buses on the shoulder—an uncommon sight, since the bus company had a good reputation of having the best fleet this side of town.

Past the Valuenzuela section, traffic moved a little less slow. Ahead was the flooded Lawang Bato area.

At 4:30, however, the floodwaters had subsided and what was slowing traffic were stalled vans in the middle of the highway and smaller vehicles littered on the shoulder. The Lawang Bato exit was closed.

Sensing that the driver needed a coffee break, one of the passengers told him to pull over in front of a cluster of makeshift stalls. The passenger knew a stall owner and gave the driver a caffeine boost.

"This is the worst. Almost 12 hours from Pasay to Olongapo!" the driver told his conductor.

At 6:00, the sun was turning the sky light blue, and the bus had reached the San Fernando exit.

"My wife wouldn't believe my story," joked a middle-aged man, who looked like an office worker, as he disembarked from the bus at the San Fernando junction.

Thank God, I already sent a text to my mother-in-law.

Taxis nowhere to be found

By Nini Valera

AS USUAL, taxi cabs were nowhere to be found yesterday in Metro Manila, which was hit by the first major flood of the year.

And if you chanced upon an empty cab yesterday, chances were the taxi driver was arrogant, demanding where you wanted to go first before you even boarded his vehicle.

Tough luck if you were stranded on West Avenue in Quezon City and had to go to Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) in Makati. You're doomed.

Which was what happened to this writer yesterday.

The wait for a cab at the corner of West Avenue and Zamboanga Street started at 12 noon. But at 2 p.m., no cab wanted to take me to Pasong Tamo.

It didn't help that I would not pay P300 for a trip that usually just costs P100 to P120 tops. It also didn't help that desperation was written on my face.

What added to the frustration was the flooded route I insisted on taking when I go to the office. No Edsa, I have been caught there in traffic countless times. Mine is a roundabout route that a taxi driver once took and which I remembered.

Unfortunately, major streets that I would pass were underwater—Timog, Tomas Morato, then E. Rodriguez, Gilmore Avenue, N. Domingo in San Juan, Kalentong in Mandaluyong, the side streets in Sta. Ana, and the main road in front of the Philippine Racing Club, and finally, Chino Roces.

Ongoing road repairs compounded the flooding and stalled traffic almost to a standstill.

As usual, going to work during rainy days, like yesterday, was an adventure, and a test of patience, perseverance and endurance.

Many Metro areas swamped despite flood control project

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE STREETS of Metro Manila were flooded yesterday, but according to Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, the flood situation has improved from last year because the floodwaters were not as deep as they had been before.

But residents in flood-prone areas like Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard and Pureza Street in Sta. Mesa claimed that the floods yesterday were as bad as last year's.

Areas in Quezon City and in Caloocan-Malabon-Valenzuela areas also experienced heavy floods even as President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Fernando to speed up construction of the Camanava flood control project.

She issued the directive yesterday during her visit to the Office of Civil Defense in Camp Aguinaldo.

"I just talked now to Bayani Fernando about the Camanava flood control, and actually, they were already given notice to proceed," Ms Macapagal said.

She said she had planned to go to Valenzuela last night, but it was impossible to get there by land.

"We can't help (the flooding there)," the MMDA chair said. "We have cleaned the area, but when there is high tide, the place really takes in water. The dike hasn't been built yet."

But the President said the project would proceed "as soon as the weather clears".

Fernando also observed that several streets that were usually flooded when the rains come, particularly the university belt area and Gil Puyat Avenue, were free from floods yesterday morning despite the heavy downpour on Monday night.

"So far, the (flood) situation is okay and is showing signs of improvement," Fernando said in a phone interview yesterday.

Not until very heavy rainfall hits Metro Manila could the MMDA completely assess the success of its flood-control project, he claimed.

Fernando also said yesterday that he is expecting a 50 percent reduction in the depth of floods because of the MMDA's constant, 10-month long cleaning and dredging operations of Metro Manila's waterways, adding that most areas in the metropolis experienced a reduction in floods.

In northern Metro Manila, floods in the Dagat-dagatan area were two feet deep, while the McArthur highway and the M.H. del Pilar and Pulo areas were under a feet and a half of water.

In Manila, floodwaters along España were thigh-high, and this main traffic artery had not been passable by light vehicles.

Floodwaters along Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard and Pureza Street were also knee-deep.

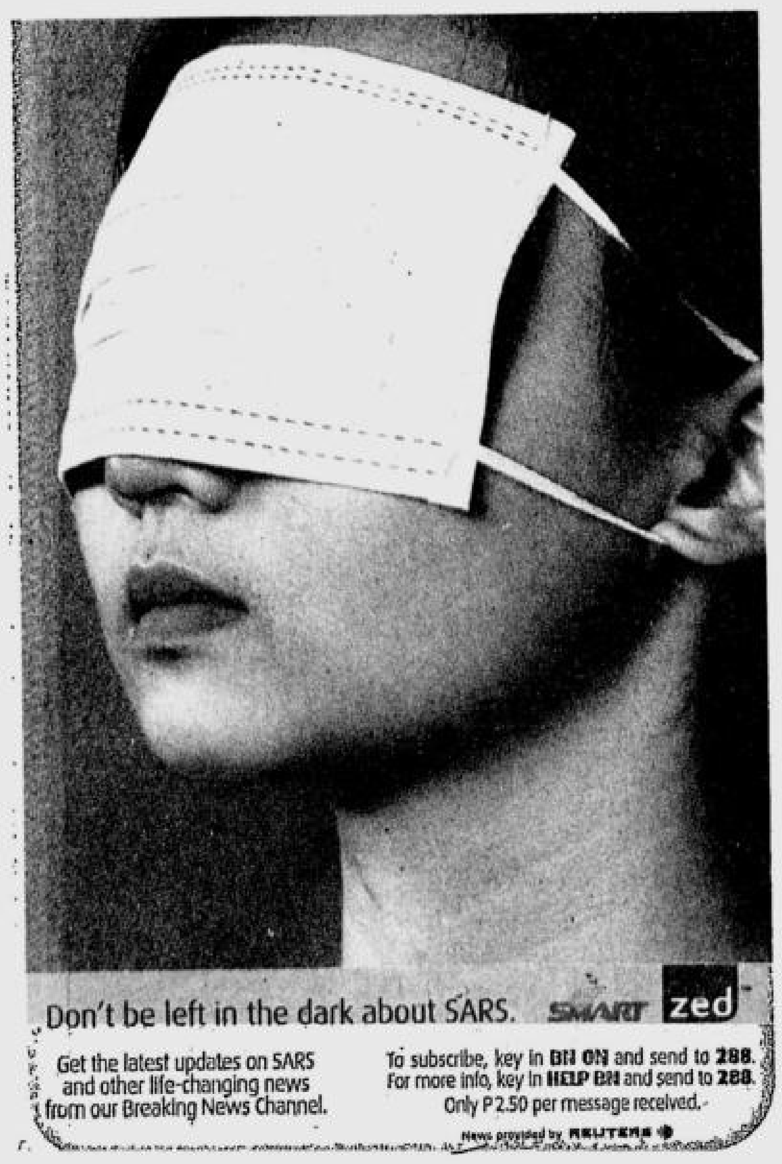
Major thoroughfares and streets in Quezon City were also flooded yesterday.

One of the deepest floods in the metropolis yesterday morning was in the Commonwealth-Sto. Niño area, where the waters were five feet deep.

Floodwater rose and caused heavy traffic on Kamuning, Edsa near Camp Aguinaldo, Espana, Commonwealth, P. Tuason, Aurora Boulevard, Tandang Sora, Mindanao Avenue, and Gilmore.

There were also flooded areas along Tomas Morato, Talayan, and Sto. Domingo Streets, and in Roxas District. *With a report from Martin Marfil*

TWO women crossing Ayala Avenue in Makati try to hold onto their umbrella as strong winds threaten to wrench it from their clutches. JESS YUSON



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News provided by REUTERS

National Flag Day rites set

THE COUNTRY celebrates National Flag Day today.

The event, dubbed "Watawat Ko, Iwagayway Ko," kicks off a series of activities that will culminate on June 12, in time with the commemoration of the 105th anniversary of Philippine Independence Day.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon will lead in today's wreath-laying at the Rizal Monument at the Rizal Park as part of Flag Day activities.

He will be assisted by National Historical Institute Executive Director Ludovico Badoy, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando and other government and local officials.

Campaign against dengue stepped up

By Tina Santos

LOCAL health departments in northern Metro Manila have stepped up the campaign against dengue fever with the onset of the rainy season.

In Caloocan City, Susan de Leon, public information officer, said the city have already started clearing debris and stagnant water in all barangays to prevent breeding places for the Aedes aegypti mosquito, the carrier of the disease.

Fumigation in these places has also started, De Leon said.

She said the health department is using the Aedes Mosquito Larvitrap Surveillance, an innovative and cost-efficient approach to the examination of the dengue-carrying mosquito.

The method uses ordinary implements such as tin can and 1-by-5 inch wooden board to make the "larvitrap."

In Malabon City, information officer Gerry Gonzales said they have already started fumigation operations in all the barangays.

In Navotas, authorities have already started disseminating information about the disease.

Makati Tanod in hit-and-run case still in hiding

THE BARANGAY Bayan Tanod who injured INQUIRER editor Antonio Bergonia in a hit-and-run incident on Sunday is still in hiding.

According to SPO2 Carlos Gonda of the Makati Traffic Division, *tanod* Cecilio Pamintuan has yet to surface and give the police his statement two days after hitting Bergonia with his motorcycle.

But Gonda said Barangay Tejeros kagawad Edwin Castillo had given police a certification saying that it was Pamintuan who had been driving the motorcycle when the incident occurred, and that this would be enough basis to file charges against Pamintuan.

Castillo also said in the certification that the motorcycle Pamintuan had been riding is used for patrolling the barangay.

Bergonia, who broke his left leg in the accident, is now confined at the Makati Medical Center.

Bergonia had just left the INQUIRER office on Sunday after submitting a special report and had then decided to go back when he was hit by Pamintuan along Chino Roces Avenue right in front of the PDI building.

The impact also caused Pamintuan to fall off his bike, but he sped off after the incident.

Bergonia was taken to the hospital by taxi driver Rolando Enriquez. *Leila Salaverria*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Mark Gil loses cool, punches hotel guard

By Leila Salaverria
and Marinel Cruz

GIL

ACTOR Mark Gil has been accused of punching a Manila Peninsula Hotel security guard who tried to bodily search the actor.

Ronnie E. Molina, 26, a security guard of General Services Inc. and assigned to the Manila Peninsula, told police that Gil punched him in the face at 11:45 p.m. on May 24 at the main entrance of the hotel.

In an interview, Gil admitted he punched Molina in the face.

Gil said he did this because Molina "was not very courteous to his guests."

Gil said he went to the hotel with his wife, sister Cherrie Gil and brother Michael de Mesa, to celebrate Michael's birthday. The actor said he was the last one to enter the hotel, and he was surprised when the security guard grabbed him by the arm.

Molina used his hands when he tried to search me, Gil said.

"I told him not to touch me," Gil said, adding that he was the only one whom the guard grabbed by the arm. "That was what his metal detector is for."

The actor said he was not able to control himself and punched Molina.

"I got spat on the face and punched in the back, and now this! I just couldn't take it anymore."

Gil was referring to what happened on May 9, when a circus elephant named Jumbo escaped from its quarters at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City, and ran unrestrained on Aurora Boulevard disrupting traffic.

Gil, who loves elephants, immediately proceeded to the area and asked permission from the animal's Thai trainer to take pictures of Jumbo. But the Thai trainer, not knowing who Gil was, spat on the face of the actor, and blamed him for agitating the animal.

The trainer then allegedly hit Gil in the back.

Gil said he did not put up a fight and, instead, walked away from the trainer.

But what happened with Molina was different, Gil said. The actor could not understand why Molina treated him the way he did.

"Now, (Molina) is filing a complaint against me," Gil said. "I think he only wants money."

But Molina told PO1 Eric Rodriguez of the Makati Police that he was only trying to do his job when he tried to do a body search on Gil.

Molina said that when the actor was about to enter the hotel, Gil allegedly shoved the guard's hand away and refused to undergo the procedure.

"Don't touch me," Gil allegedly told Molina, who then apologized to the actor, PO1 Rodriguez said.

Gil was then allowed in the hotel but then came back to the main entrance.

"Next time, do not do that," the actor allegedly told Molina.

The security guard apologized again, but Gil threw a punch at Molina's face. The hotel's manager then intervened.

Rodriguez said Molina only went to the police on Monday because the guard had asked for clearance from the hotel.

Fugitive ex-governor surrenders to NBI

By Jerome Aning

SAYING that he only wants to clear his name of fraud, former Quezon Gov. Eduardo Rodriguez yielded to agents of the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday morning.

NBI Interpol Division agents fetched the former governor at around 10 a.m. at the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 17 where the judge has been hearing the three-month-old extradition case against Rodriguez which the Department of Justice filed on behalf of the United States.

Rodriguez said his wife and co-accused, Imelda, is down with the flu and could not accompany him to the NBI.

Rodriguez is set to depart for California on May 29. He said his wife would follow him as soon as he has made sure that they would be humanely treated in the US.

The Rodriguez couple are accused of faking the deaths of Imelda and her mother Gloria, and collecting insurance money worth $150,000.

"I want to clear my name for the sake of my father," Rodriguez said when he was presented to mediamen at the NBI.

Bureau Director Reynaldo Wycoco expressed relief that the extradition case would soon be closed after the couple agreed to go to the US to face the charges.

He assured the couple that they would be treated with dignity on their way to the US.

After the US Embassy requested the apprehension and extradition of the Rodriguez couple, Makati City Judge Honorato Vicencio issued arrest warrants for the couple on April 26, 2001.

The Court of Appeals issued a temporary restraining order on the serving of the warrant on May 10.

But the appellate court later set aside the TRO, prompting NBI agents to launch a search for the couple.

The couple were nabbed by NBI Interpol agents on Sept. 6, 2001 at Park Square II, Ayala Center, Makati.

On Sept. 25, Judge Vicencio allowed the couple to each post a P1-million cash bond.

The DOJ filed the formal request for extradition before the Manila RTC Branch 17 on Mar. 12, 2002.

Branch 17 Judge Peralta canceled the suspects' cash bond on May 8, 2003 and issued new arrest warrants. Last week, the couple filed a petition for voluntary extradition before the court.

The ex-governor was attending the hearing on the petition when the NBI agents arrived and took him into custody.

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Robbery suspect collared in Makati

By Leila Salaverria

A SUSPECTED robber yesterday was injured in a shootout with police in Makati City.

Police said suspect Ronnel dela Cruz, 36, a resident of Manila, was driving a white Toyota Revo (WGM-172) on Sandico Street in Makati when he was spotted by Senior Insp. Enrique Ancheta at around 4:30 a.m. yesterday.

Ancheta, who was on board a patrol car, said that he tried to flag down Dela Cruz after realizing that it matched the description of a vehicle that a group of robbers used in stealing the cellular phone of 34-year-old Wendy Ang in Mandaluyong on Monday night.

The Revo's plate number and description was flashed on police radios.

Ancheta told investigators that when he tried to flag down the vehicle, the suspect opened fire and sped off.

Ancheta then returned fire and gave chase. He finally caught up with the vehicle on Chino Roces Avenue corner Montojo Street.

Police said Dela Cruz was shot several times and was taken to the Ospital ng Makati.

The suspect is now in stable condition, according to SPO4 Leonardo Timtiman.

Victim Wendy Ang positively identified Dela Cruz as the driver of the Revo. She told police that the suspect was with four other men when they took her phone.

Investigators said Dela Cruz and the three other men might be members of a robbery syndicate that preys on pedestrians and establishments in Metro Manila.

Lethal cell phone

By Jerome Aning

A 26-YEAR-OLD delivery man was killed when he tried to recharge his cellular phone in Quiapo, Manila early yesterday morning.

Police said Allan Macajilos died when he fell down a staircase in his house on Gunao Street at around 7:30 a.m. yesterday.

Homicide investigator PO3 Paul Dennis Javier said Macajilos, his uncle Bernardo and cousin Francisco Funtalan, had been drinking until shortly before dawn yesterday.

Bernardo and Funtalan told the police that they were so drunk they did not hear the victim falling down the staircase when they went to bed.

PO3 Javier said Macajilos was clutching a cellular phone battery charger when the victim's relatives found the body.

Bernardo and Funtalan said Macajilos must have been trying to plug the charger to a socket at the top of the stairs when he slipped.

Ex-con found dead

EX-CONVICT Crescencio Diones was found dead with a slashed neck in Mandaluyong City two weeks after he was released from prison.

Police said commuters found Diones' body at about 3 a.m. at the foot of the Metro Rail Transit station on Edsa.

Witnesses told PO2 Ruperto Sason that unidentified men on board a stainless jeep dumped the body at the Boni station.

Insp. Alberto Tajo said Diones, of Sampaloc, Manila, was released from jail on May 12 after serving a prison term for homicide. *Nelson Flores*

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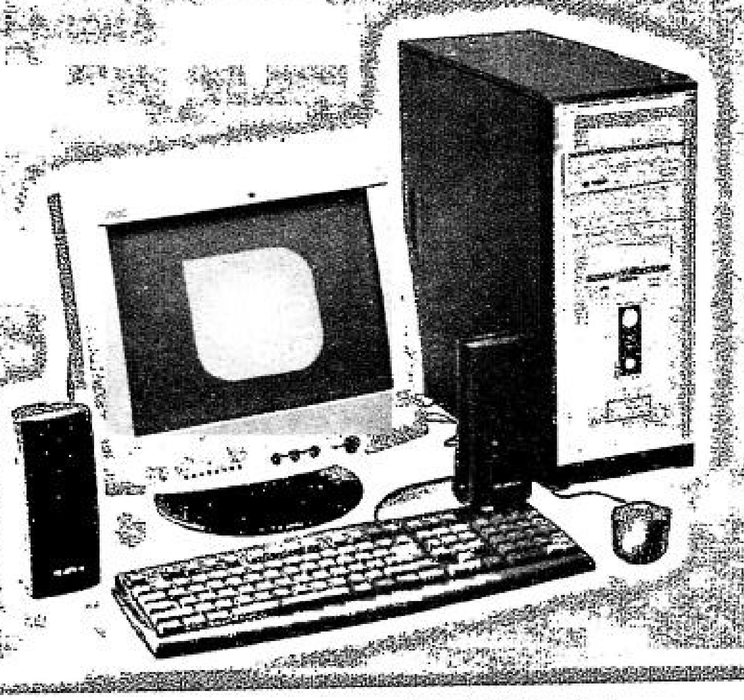

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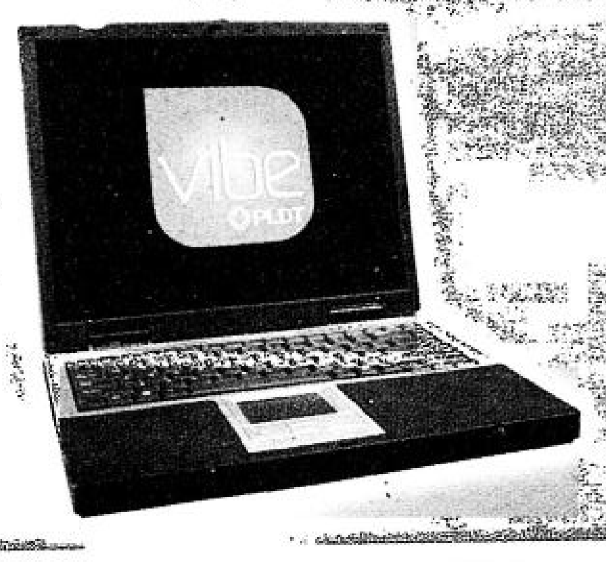

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Spurs try to finish off Mavs at home /A26

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Clemens denied /A28

Palawan boxers prevail /A27

PBA hit on drug tests

GAB to decide if offenders could play again, says Villanueva

By June Navarro

THE HEAD of the highest government regulatory body in sports yesterday hit the PBA for being remiss in its duties, mainly in the manner it had dealt with suspected drug offenders.

Games and Amusements Board chair Eduardo Villanueva decried what he claimed the failure of

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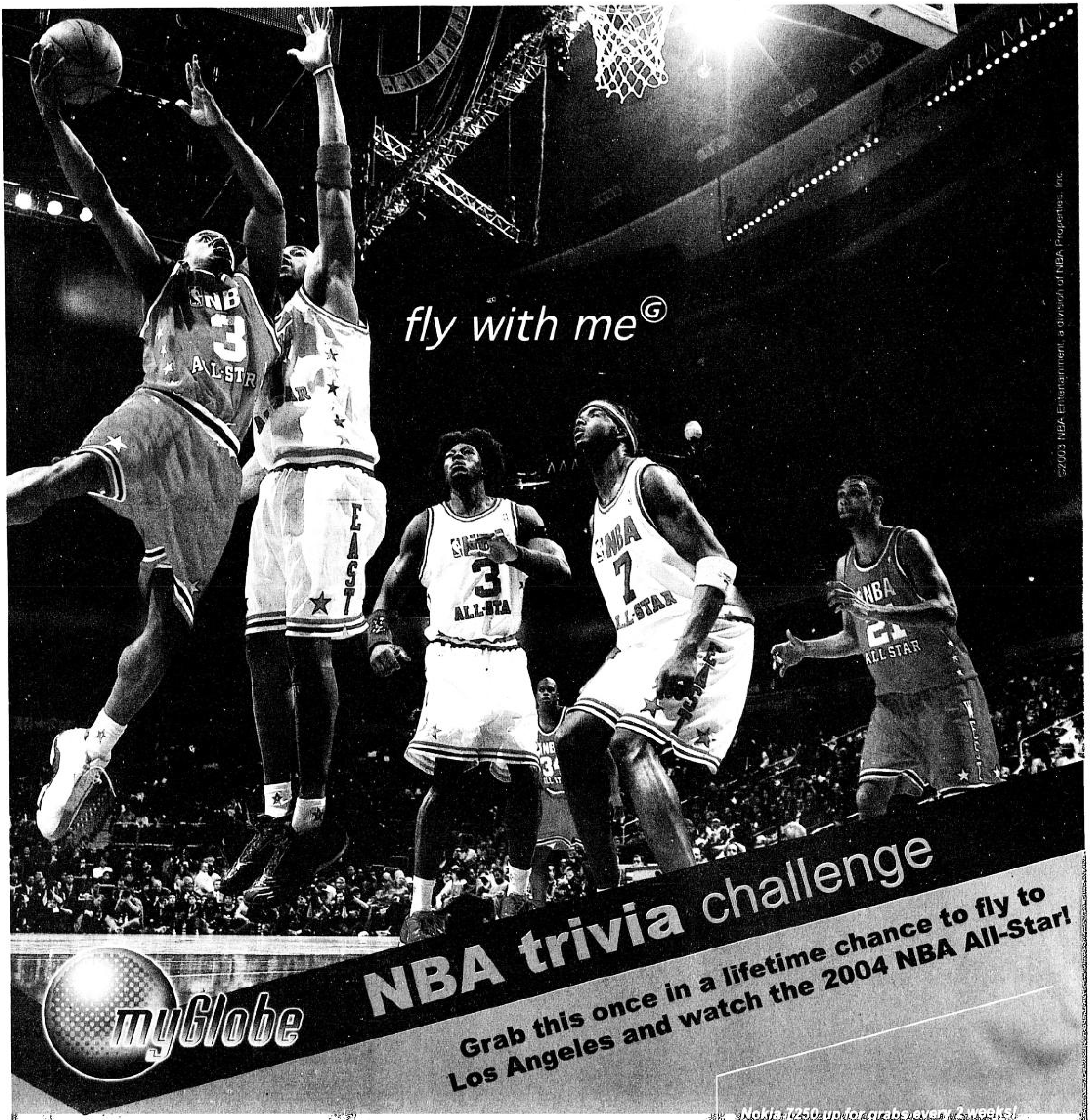

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Brown resigns

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania--Saying it was time for a "fresh look," Larry Brown resigned as coach and vice president of basketball operations of the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday.

Brown spent six seasons with the Sixers – his longest tenure with any team in his 31 years of coaching.

BROWN

In Philadelphia, the man nicknamed "Mr. Fix-it," turned a sagging National Basketball Association franchise into a perennial contender.

"We had a good run and it's time to let someone else in here and give a fresh look," Brown said.

"I said I didn't want to be here and set this franchise back. But I believe I've taken this team as far as I can, and it's time for change."

Brown's future with the team had been up in the air since the Sixers were eliminated by the Detroit Pistons in six games in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

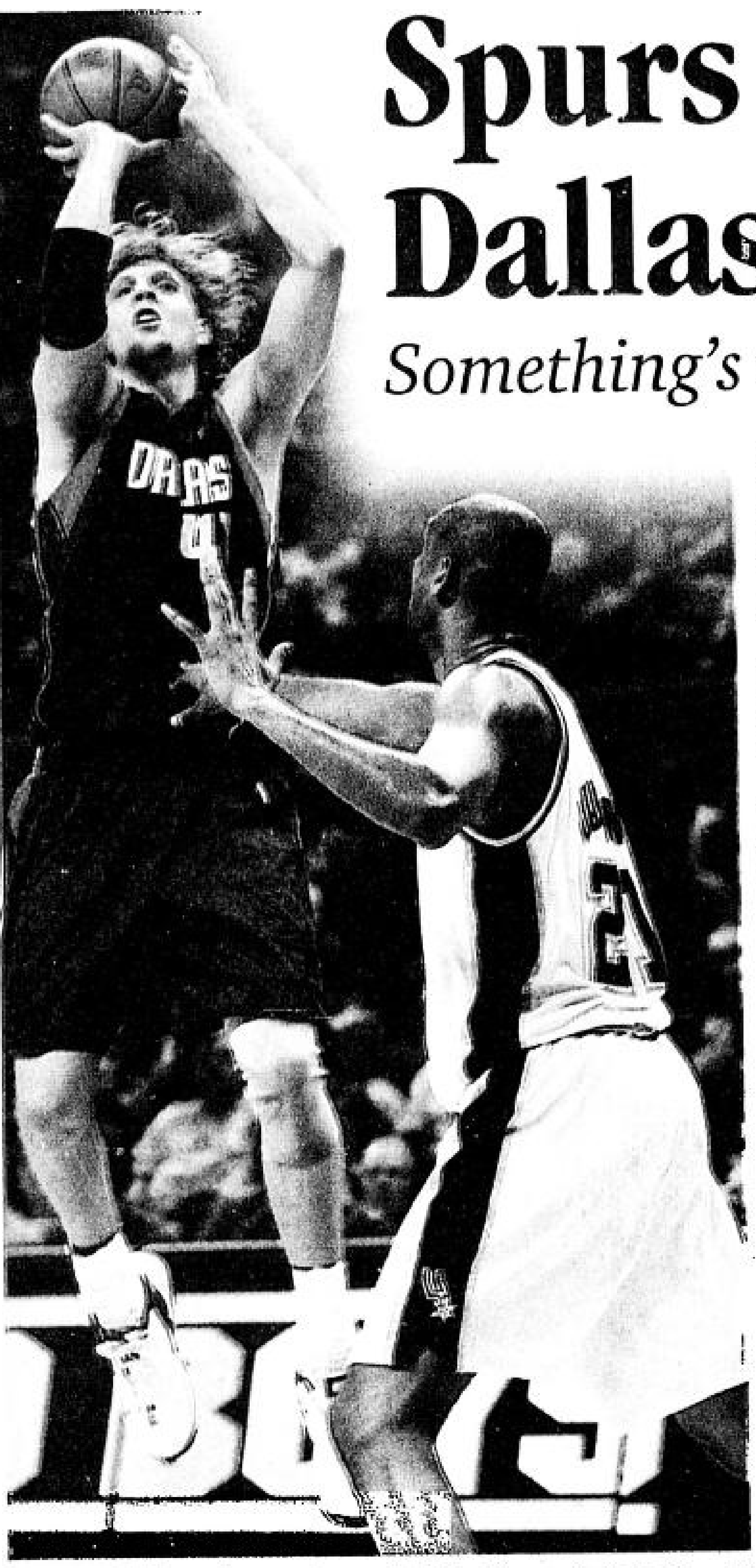
As early as last week, Sixers chairman Ed Snider told the Philadelphia Daily News that his team needed to "move on" if Brown had lost his enthusiasm for coaching the 76ers.

The 62-year-old Brown leaves the Sixers with two years remaining on his contract. Snider said at Monday's press conference that Brown is free to pursue other jobs and would not seek compensation.

Enshrined to the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2002, Brown is the only coach in NBA history to lead six different teams to the playoffs and has over 1,000 wins in the ABA, NBA and the college ranks. *AFP*

Spurs try to finish off Dallas Mavs at home

Something's not right with my knee–Nowitzki


Nowitzki (left) putting up a shot against Tim Duncan in Game 2. AFP

SAN ANTONIO--Even though small ball didn't work in Dallas, Don Nelson is going back to it in Game 5 against San Antonio.

The Mavericks coach really doesn't have a choice.

"Everybody's talking about how clever I am. You guys would come up with the same game plan if you only had two big guys and one of them was (6-foot-8). You'd play little guys, wouldn't you? Surprise!" Nelson said Monday.

The only thing that would make the Mavericks bigger would be the return of Dirk Nowitzki, who said it would take a drastic improvement in his sprained left knee for him to be on the court.

"I don't really have pain," Nowitzki said. "It doesn't really hurt, but I can feel that something is not right with my knee. If I have that again tomorrow, I'm not going to play."

The Spurs did not practice Monday, getting a head start on the rest that will await them if they finish off the Mavericks in five games.

The NBA Finals begin June 4 at the home of the Western Conference champion, which means the Spurs won't have to sleep anywhere but in their own beds for the next week and a half if they take care of business Tuesday and avoid a trip back to Dallas for Game 6.

In order to advance, the Spurs will have to send the Mavericks to their first four-game losing streak in more than three years.

"I'm not ready to play golf yet. I'm just reading the tip magazines," Dallas guard Nick Van Exel said.

This is the Mavericks' second three-game skid of the postseason. The first came in the opening round against Portland, when Dallas nearly became the first NBA team to blow a 3-0 lead. The Mavericks recovered by winning Game 7. They also went seven games in the second round against Sacramento.

While Dallas is 2-0 in elimination games, the physical toll of 18 playoff games – including 10 in 17 days as of Tuesday night – seems to be catching up.

AT A GLANCE

NBA PLAYOFFS 2003

CONFERENCE FINALS

Eastern Conference

(1) Detroit vs. (2) New Jersey
Pistons 0, Nets 4
Game 1: New Jersey 76, Detroit 74
Game 2: New Jersey 88, Detroit 86
Game 3: New Jersey 97, Detroit 85
Game 4: New Jersey 102, Detroit 82
New Jersey wins Eastern Conference title, 4

Western Conference

(1) San Antonio vs (3) Dallas
Spurs 3, Mavericks 1
Game 1: Dallas 113, San Antonio 110
Game 2: San Antonio 119, Dallas 106
Game 3: San Antonio 96, Dallas 83
Game 4: San Antonio 102, Dallas 95
Game 5 at San Antonio (May 28, 9:30 a.m.)
*Game 6 at Dallas (May 30,9:30 a.m.)
*Game 7 at San Antonio (June 1,8:30 a.m.)

* If necessary
TBD (To Be Determined)

SOLAR Sports will telecast Game Five of the San Antonio Spurs-Dallas Mavericks NBA Western Conference Finals live at 9 a.m. today (Wednesday, May 28), with a replay at 8 p.m.

ABAP head sings a brave tune

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE MISSION had failed.

The latest foreign expedition of the RP amateur boxing team flopped and the accompanying reporter did not have to confirm the frustration of the RP delegation head.

After flyweight Harry Tanamor, last Filipino left standing, lost in his quest for the gold in the Seville BoxAm tournament, Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, summoned members of his coaching staff.

He did not tarry. He did not give any excuses. He went straight to the point.

While, before, Lopez would roll with the punches, so to say, and console, instead of scold, members of the national delegation, he was suddenly singing a brave new tune.

***

Lopez minced no words and promptly ordered better training. He demanded improvement.

Ever the soft-spoken fellow, it was hard to picture how Lopez worded his order.

But the poor fellow had every reason to be alarmed over the showing of his fighters.

Reported Roy Luarca, our man who joined the boxing mission: "ABAP president Manny Lopez said his boys' performance showed there's still a lot of room for improvement. Lopez ordered coach Pat Gaspi and his assistant, Alex Arroyo, to resume training the fighters as soon as they return to Manila."

***

The 11-man team was scheduled to arrive from Spain early Wednesday.

As earlier reported by Luarca, their stint in the prestigious Acropolis Cup in Athens, last stop of the RP-Revicon team's three-nation swing, had been aborted after the hosts barred the Filipinos due to the SARS scare.

Actually, Tañamor had been expected to repeat over Bulgarian Salim Salimov in the flyweight gold-medal match in Seville on Saturday.

Tanamor, who would claim he had been successful in fending off the assault of his opponent, hinted that he got a raw deal from the judges.

***

But Lopez saw the performance of the Filipino fighters in a more realistic light.

Although bantamweight Arlan Lerio won a gold medal in Lithuania, first stop of the team's three-nation expedition, Lopez obviously realized their sponsors themselves would not be too pleased with the total output.

Well, it was hard to say how the Filipinos could've fared had they not been barred from entering Athens.

It was harder say how Lopez would've rated the team's performance had, say, Tanamor succeeded in landing the flyweight gold medal in Spain.

***

Anyway, just like with recent international stints, the latest RP boxing expedition, which paraded a few new names with the hope of displaying brighter direction, ended up as another sorry diagnosis.

But the good thing here is that, unlike in the RP boxing team's back-to-back flops in the 2000 Sydney Olympics and the Busan Asiad last year, Lopez this time has gallantly owned up to some shortcomings.

If just for that, the failed Revicon-funded expedition has succeeded to some extent.

No need to ask here how much Revicon had spent to send the RP amateur boxing team abroad.

But it would be worth all the trouble, both for the sponsors and people who truly care and pin their hopes on Filipino fighters, only if Lopez would be able to inject major changes in the set-up.

If he sticks to the same system, useless personnel, and refuses to introduce new thrust in development and training, then we can all expect another while goose chase in the country's Olympic gold medal quest.

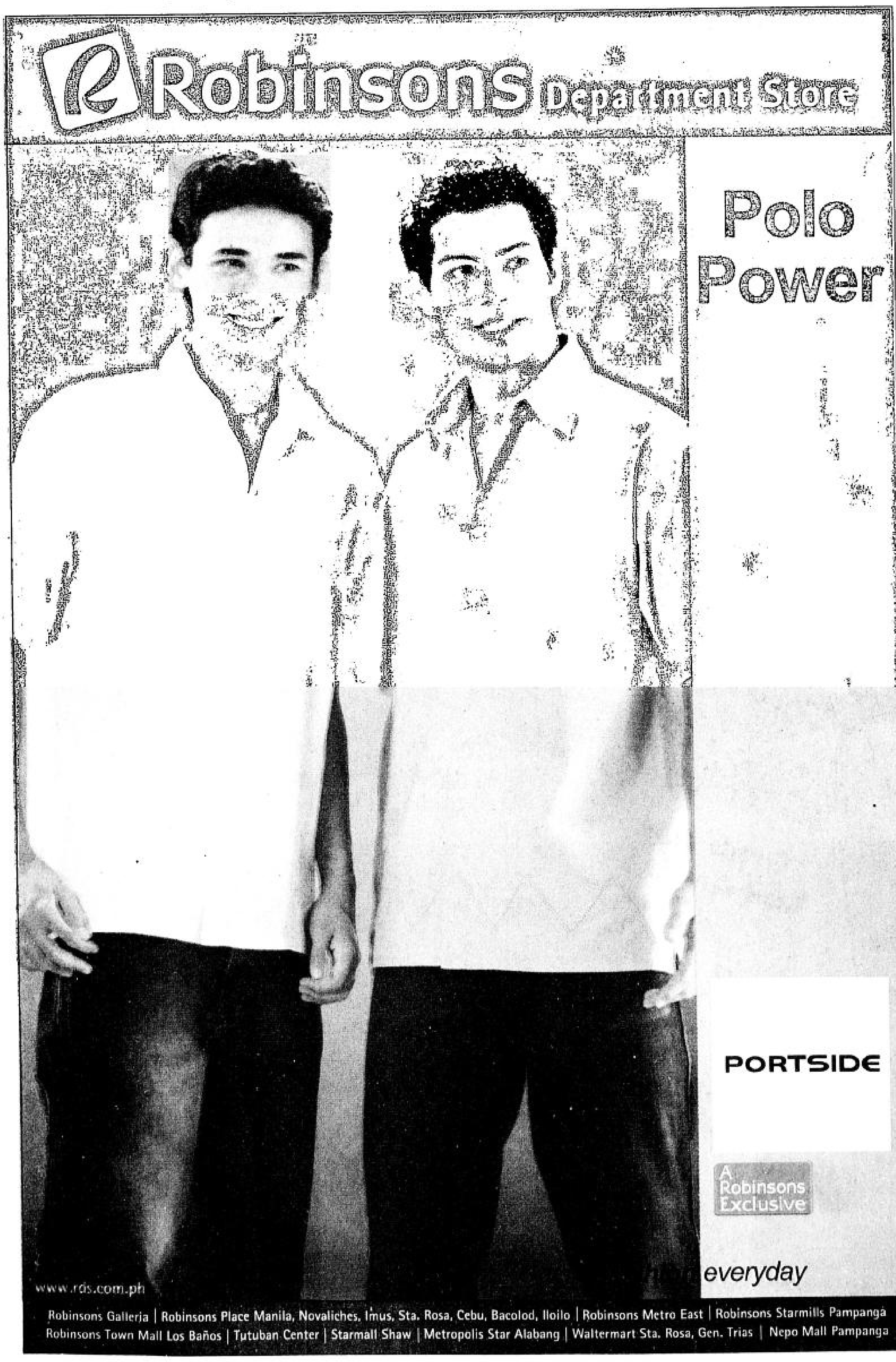
SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

BASKETBALL: Mavericks vs Spurs, Game 5; 9 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.); Solar Sports - The western showdown returns to the SBC Center as San Antonio and Dallas continue their duel.

MOTOR SPORTS: Indianapolis 500; 4:30 p.m. (r); Star Sports - Take a look back at the all the ear - splitting, heart pounding and hair raising action in America's most popular annual car race.

SOCCER: 2003 UEFA Champions League Final; tomorrow at 2 a.m.; ESPN - It will be an all-Italian affair as Juventus clashes with AC Milan for the title.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SPORTSWATCH

Malarayat takes lead

MT. Malarayat ruled its first two matches in overpowering fashion to take the early Group III lead recently in the 2003 Federation Golf League in various venues. The Lipa-based Malarayat squad first ripped Riviera, 3.5-.5, then returned to their home course a week later to demolish Sta. Elena by the same margin to pile up 7 points in the first two weeks of competition. Malarayat got two points for every win and a point bonus for limiting their opponent to just half a point. Defending champion Manila Golf also opened its title-retention bid on a high note as the Forbes Park golfers downed Manila Southwoods, 3-1, in a rain-marred rematch of last year's finalists. But Southwoods made up for that loss with a 3-1 rout of Tagaytay Highlands to tie Eastridge for the top spot in Group I with four points. *Jong Arcano*

Jungolf rained out

THE FIRST elimination round of the Airlift Asia Classic Jungolf Match Play Championships, the final leg of the Samsung Jungolf Tour, was cancelled yesterday when strong rains rendered parts of the Riviera Golf and Country Club course unplayable. A number of jungolfers still managed to tee off despite the inclement weather but had to be recalled when rains came without letup at noon. Jungolf president Gerry Handog said that weather-permitting, the round would be played today with the top four players in each division advancing to the match play stage of the event on Thursday. *Jong Arcano*

Pascua, Diaz rule 25K

ILOCOS Norte's Reynaldo Pascua topped the New Balance 25K Power Race last Sunday at the Rockwell Center in Makati. A protege of former Gintong Alay chief and now Ilocos Norte sports czar Mike Keon, the 29-year-old Pascua kept pace with the field until the last seven kilometers when he pulled away en route to soloing it home in 1:33.27. With the win, he earned a trip to the Singapore Marathon plus P7,500 cash prize. Air Force bet Noel Bautista settled for second place (1:33.59) while in third place was veteran Reynaldo de los Reyes (1:34.38). The event was sponsored by Planet Sports. Roxas City's Gloria Diaz won the women's division of the race co-sponsored by Powerade, Cebuana Lhuillier Pawnshop, Viva Mineral water, Fitness First, Mirror Magazine, Rockwell Center, David's Salon, Power Bar, Le Soleil de Boracay, Rockwell Club and Athlete's Foot.

Delavin posts twin kill

RANDY Delavin posted a double kill by outclassing Kenneth Cervantes, 6-0, 6-1, in the boys 12-under and Jopy Mamawal, 6-4, 6-4, in the boys' 14-under divisions in the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop Sunday at the Puerto Princesa Tennis Club in Palawan. Delavin shared honors with Linda Santos (girls' 12-under and 14-under) and Gerber Mamawal (boys' 16-under and 18-under) in the Milo netfest organized by CTW and supported by Wilson balls, adidas and Sports Kids with a Group-3 Philta sanction.

Cebu hosting netfest

CEBU—The adidas Tennis Challenge 2003 completes its Visayas swing when the Sancase Tennis Club hosts the second leg here starting May 29-31. The event, which kicked off in Bacolod, is organized by club president Bambi Castro, Cebu youth director John Page and Philta R-7 vice president Alex Ngo in cooperation with the CTW. Other backers are Wilson balls, Milo and Sports Kids.

Benguet meet June 13

THE BENGUET Mayors League, in cooperation with Thunderbird Power Feeds, will host a special 3-cockderby at the Tabora Sports Club in Tuba town on June 13. Supporting the project is Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas, himself an avid cockfighter and a leading member of the National Cockers Association. Entry fee is pegged at P11,000. Proceeds of the derby will go to the Benguet School Building Contruction Fund. Meanwhile, Roligon Mega Cockpit shifts into blockbuster mode as it schedules a 4-day derby next month. Owner Rolly Ligon said a guaranteed cash prize of P2.2 million is at stake.

Cardona derby on tap

THE INDEPENDENCE Day Extravaganza will be held at the Cardona Coliseum in Rizal from June 11-13. New managers Alex Carlos and Kano Raya said that the three-day event starts with the "1-Cock Ulutan Fastest Win Contest" on June 11. Winners of the first 10 matches will automatically receive P1,500 each. For an entry fee of P500 and a minimum bet of P3,300, the entry that will post the fastest win will receive P15,000 while the second fastest takes home P10,000.

SARS relocates Cup

ZURICH—The 2003 women's football World Cup has been relocated from China to the United States because of the deadly severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) disease, world governing body Fifa announced on Monday. "The Fifa Emergency Committee has taken the decision to relocate the 4th Fifa Women's World Cup, originally due to be played in China, to the United States of America," said a Fifa statement. The tournament is expected to take place around its original period of Sept. 23 to Oct. 11. *AFP*

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MAY 28 WEDNESDAY 422-9877

Brin's boxers dominate field

By Dennis U. Eroa

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan—After two forgettable Olympics and countless international stints, Romeo Brin called it quits. Now, he's back trying to mould future Olympic heroes as mentor of the Puerto Princesa boxing team.

Brin, along with other veteran internationalists, were presented to an adoring public in the National Amateur boxing Open for men and women Monday night at the Puerto Princesa Coliseum here. Then, it's back to work for this soft-spoken fellow, who never made the medal round in the 1996 Atlanta and 2000 Sydney Olympics.

With Brin manning the corner, Puerto Princesa won five of its six preliminary bouts in the second day of competitions of this week-long tournament which will select new members of the national training pool, which is deep in training for the Vietnam SEA Games in December.

"I didn't win an Olympic gold, maybe from my boxers will come a future Olympic champion," said Brin, whose family hails from Palawan. He was recruited at the start of the year to handle the city's boxing team by Mayor Edward Hagedorn.

The winners from Puerto Princesa were Jerson Baja (featherweight), Ramil Ebales (pinweight), Jovie Taña (pinweight), Jonard Baja (flyweight) and Jimmy Ambray (light-flyweight). The lone loser was flyweight Jovy Cabanos, who bowed to Palawan's Judy Visabilla.

Viva halts Montaña, shares semis lead

GAMES TOMORROW
2 p.m.—Montaña vs John-O; 4 p.m.—Hapee vs Viva

VIVA Mineral Water played solidly down the stretch to whip Montaña Jewels, 82-74, yesterday and gain a share of the lead in the semifinals of the Sunkist-PBL 2003 Unity Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

Dennis Miranda drilled in 10 of his 14 points in the final quarter as the Water Force halted the Jewellers' four-game winning run.

"This time we just emphasized the value of positive attitude. The results have been good for us so far," said Viva coach Koy Banal.

Both Montaña and Viva now hold similar 2-1 cards.

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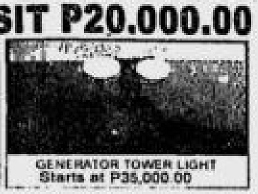

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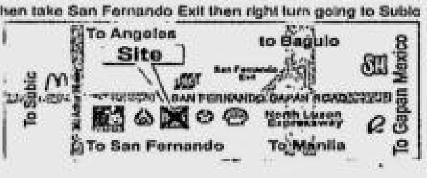


Sa lahat ng sumuporta
at tumangkilik sa amin,

Maraming
Salamat Po!

CONGRATULATIONS
OVERALL CHAMPION
ARNEL QUIRIMIT

Tanduay Rhum Riders present Tour Pilipinas 2003 Trophy to Dr. Lucio C. Tan, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Tanduay Distillers

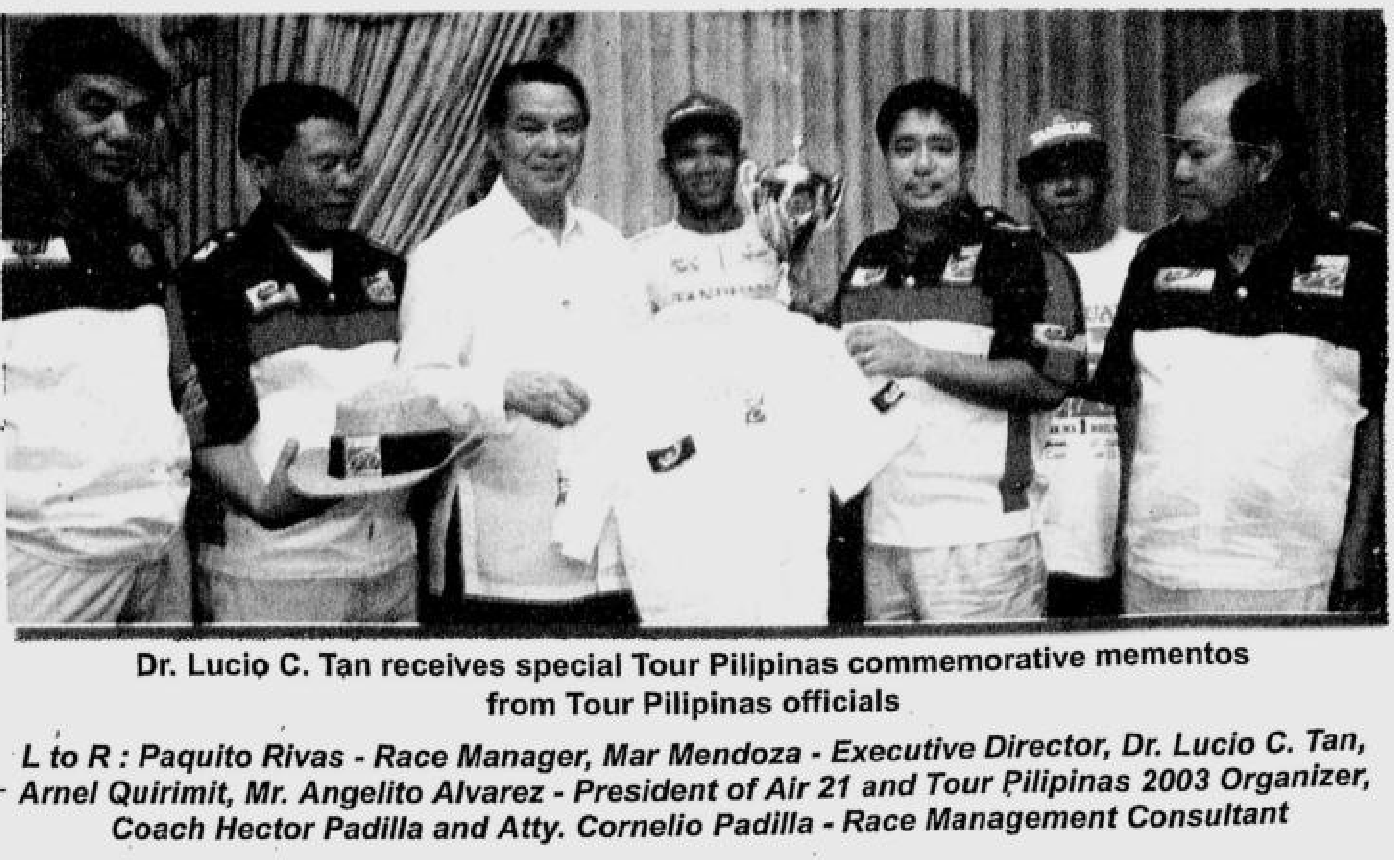
L to R : Ericson Obosa, Jesus Garcia, Dominador Jacob, Dr. Lucio C. Tan, Arnel Quirimit, Joseph Millanes, Eric Tolentino, Oscar Espiritu, Coach Hector Padilla

TANDUAY
THE NO. 1 RHUM

TANDUAY
RHUM RIDERS

TOUR PILIPINAS
PRESENTED BY:
AIR 21

Tour Champion Arnel Quirimit with Mr. Bert Lina, Chairman of Air 21 and Chairman of Tour Pilipinas 2003.



Dr. Lucio C. Tan receives special Tour Pilipinas commemorative mementos from Tour Pilipinas officials

L to R : Paquito Rivas - Race Manager, Mar Mendoza - Executive Director, Dr. Lucio C. Tan, Arnel Quirimit, Mr. Angelito Alvarez - President of Air 21 and Tour Pilipinas 2003 Organizer, Coach Hector Padilla and Atty. Cornelio Padilla - Race Management Consultant

Hot starts by Andre, Serena

PARIS—Past and present American champions made a rip-roaring start to the French Open on Monday.

Serena Williams got the defense of her women's title off to a perfect start with a 6-2, 6-1 mauling of Barbara Rittner of Germany, while Andre Agassi showed with his 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 win over Karol Beck of Slovakia that even at 33 he is well capable of adding another success to the one he achieved here four years ago.

Agassi, the reigning Australian Open champion with eight Grand Slam crowns to his name, took his record for 2003 to 24 wins for only two losses by pulverizing Beck in 95 minutes to make a mockery of his scant preparation.

Agassi now faces Croatian Mario Ancic, who was leading Chilean former world number one Marcelo Rios 6-1, 1-0 when the South American withdrew through an arm injury.

Serena made it 29 Grand Slam match wins on the trot and she is now hoping she can make it five Grand Slam titles in a row–something last achieved by Steffi Graf across 1988 and 1989.

The 21-year-old Serena next faces Switzerland's Marie-Gaiane Mikaelian, a 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 winner over Indonesia's Angelique Widjaja, last year's junior champion.

But if Serena's win and Agassi's saunter in the sunshine saw the formbook, largely respected Peru's Luis Horna threw it out of the window by overcoming men's fifth seed Roger Federer on the Philippe Chatrier showcourt 7-6 (8/6), 6-2, 7-6 (7/3).

There was another shock among the men when experienced 49th-ranked Slovak Dominik Hrbaty ousted tenth-seeded Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand 6-4, 3-6, 6-0, 7-5 while Spanish qualifier Galo Blanco downed twice finalist Alex Corretja 5-7, 6-3, 6-0, 7-5. *AFP*

AGASSI hits a forehand return to Beck. AFP

Swift™ - PONY INVITATIONAL

In cooperation with Alabang Baseball & Softball Club and Philippine TOT Baseball Foundation

FINAL TEAM STANDINGS

PALOMINO DIVISION

	W	L	PCT
Alabang	5	1	0.833
Tanauan	5	1	0.833
Makati	4	2	0.667
Los Baños	4	2	0.667
Marist	1	5	0.167
Antipolo	1	5	0.167
Indians	1	5	0.167

Playoff Championship game between Alabang and Tanauan on May 31, 2003.

BRONCO DIVISION

	W	L	PCT
Indians	6	1	0.857
Giants	6	1	0.857
Floridablanca	5	2	0.714
Tanauan	5	2	0.714
Los Baños	3	4	0.429
NCR	2	5	0.286
Alabang	1	6	0.143
Santa Rosa	0	7	0.000

Playoff Championship game between Giants and Tanauan on May 31, 2003.

MUSTANG DIVISION

	W	L	PCT
Alabang	3	1	0.750
Indians	3	1	0.750
St. Francis	3	1	0.750
Tanauan	1	3	0.250
Marist	0	4	0.000

Playoff Champion - Alabang
Playoff 2nd Place - Tanauan

GIRLS 18 AND UNDER DIVISION

	W	L	PCT
Caloocan	5	0	1.000
Alabang	2	3	0.400
Valenzuela	1	5	0.167

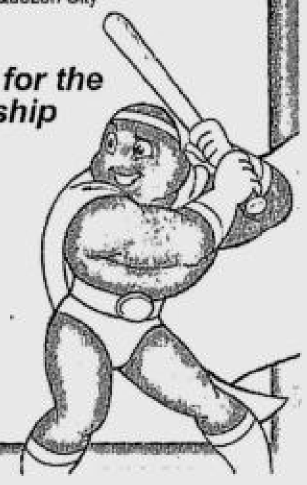
Playoff Champion - Caloocan
Playoff 2nd Place - Alabang

GIRLS 13 AND UNDER DIVISION

	W	L	PCT
Tiedye	5	1	0.833
Quezon City	5	1	0.833
Alabang	2	4	0.333
NCR	0	6	0.000

Playoff Champion - Tiedye Makati
Playoff 2nd Place - Quezon City

Watch out for the championship games!



No 300th win yet for 'The Rocket'

NEW YORK—New York pitcher Roger Clemens' bid for a 300-game milestone victory became a bust Monday when the Boston Red Sox banged him around, winning 8-4 and sending the Yankees to their eighth straight home loss.

Clemens slowly trudged off the mound, his head down the whole way, after Todd Walker's single chased him in the sixth inning. Now, he'll have to wait until next Sunday in Detroit–and the following weekend at Wrigley Field, if necessary–to try to join 20 other pitchers with 300 career victories.

But bad omens surrounded Clemens, even before his first fastball.

The start of the game was delayed 1 hour, 42 minutes by rain, and Clemens' routine was further disrupted right after his final warmup. That's when Red Sox manager Grady Little walked out to complain about Clemens' glove.

'The Rocket' was wearing a new glove with a shiny "300" patch on the back of it, and plate umpire Bill Miller agreed with Little that it was not within regulations. Clemens had to toss aside that mitt while another one was brought from the dugout.

Clemens (6-3) threw 133 pitches–his highest total in more than two years. Still, he remained winless in his last nine starts at Yankee Stadium.

New York lost its season-high fifth in a row.

Nomar Garciaparra extended his hitting streak to 26 games and Walker drove in three runs as Boston increased its American League East lead over the Yankees to 2 1/2 games. Tim Wakefield (5-2) got the win. *AP*

Buhain, Dayrit a bit off on SEAG

CLEAN LIVING
Manolo R. Iñigo

THERE are marked similarities between PSC chair Eric Buhain and POC president Celso Dayrit, with the Philippine Sports Commission top gun declaring a third place overall finish for the national delegation in this year's Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam and the Philippine Olympic Committee chief saying that the country might place fourth in the biennial meet.

In my opinion, both Buhain and Dayrit looked a bit off. To be honest, the Philippines will not be making much impact in Vietnam this December because, at best, the country could settle for fifth place, the same position it won in the SEA Games held two years ago in Kuala Lumpur where host Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam dominated the field. Finishing third or fourth overall in Vietnam this year is virtually out of the question simply because the Filipinos will be meeting the athletes from the same countries that have been beaten them in 2001. Of course, our athletes are not to blame for this unsettling situation. Rather, the Filipino taxpayers are blaming those narrow-minded sports officials who do not want to accept the awful truth that the country is many, many years behind the times, that they have little to show in the way of progress except that they travel a lot. You see, most sports officials treat international meets like the SEA Games as a season for junkets and sight-seeing. Join sports and see the world?

The Philippines used to be a dominant force in the SEA Games. In 1991 in Manila, Filipino athletes did the country proud by finishing second overall behind powerhouse Indonesia, losing by a lone gold medal in the final tally. However, the Philippines fell by the wayside after that, dropping to third in Singapore in 1993 and in Thailand in 1995, finishing fourth in Indonesia in 1997 and placing a dismal fifth in Brunei in 1999 and in Kuala Lumpur in 2001.

***

ALL ABOUT OLYMPIC HORSES. On the average, Olympic show horses live 25-30 years, according to equestrian researchers. Olympic-level horses required more than just good physical training. Because they are "athletes who work hard for a living," horses have set a daily routines, receive therapies and stay in roomy, well-ventilated barns. A day in the life of Olympic horses begins at 7 a.m. when they rise and take a big breakfast of about 1/3 bale of hay and four quarts of grain concentrate. After breakfast, their hooves are cleaned and they are saddled up for a nice, easy ride to warm up.

At 9:20 a.m., they are taken back to the barn, bathed and brushed. Their hooves are cleaned anew and they are sent back out to graze. At 11:30 a.m., the horses are hosed down, manes and tails shampooed. They stand knee-deep in cooling whirlpool boots to ease aching legs and lessen swelling. Sore backs are massaged, spines are straightened by chiropractors. At noon, they eat a light bunch of about 1/4 bale of hay and one quart of grain.

PBA hit . . .

From page A25

the PBA to coordinate with his office on the implementation of league rules and policies, particularly the imposition of sanctions on erring players.

"The PBA must consult us on all the policies and guidelines passed by the PBA board. As the highest government regulatory body in sports, the GAB has the right to review these rules for final approval," Villanueva said.

Villanueva also rued the fact that the GAB has not been granted the right to send a representative or an observer during the random and mandatory drug testing conducted by the PBA and the Department of Health on the players.

"We and the PBA should be one. They have to inform us of the developments everytime they conduct a drug test on the players," Villanueva said.

After making his stand, the GAB chief announced there is no assurance drug offenders in the PBA could immediately see action even if the league lifts their indefinite suspension.

These offenders could play again only if the GAB finds enough merit to reactivate their licenses, Villanueva said.

He stressed that his office would have the final say if Batang Red Bull's Jimwell Torion, Alex Crisano of Barangay Ginebra and Talk N' Text's Norman Gonzales would be allowed to play again.

"The PBA can remove the suspensions anytime. But the GAB will still have the last say if Torion, Crisano and Gonzales can play," Villanueva told the INQUIRER.

Torion, who is expected to be discharged from rehab this week, and Crisano were tested positive for shabu while traces of Ecstacy were allegedly found on the urine specimen of Gonzales.

The three have been suspended indefinitely until they could comply with the requirements of the league for reinstatement.

Villanueva however pointed out that the GAB reserves the right to withhold or reinstate their licenses independent from the decision of the PBA.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala has ordered Torion, Crisano and Gonzales to undergo a six-month rehabilitation after which they will be required to go through a series of physical and mental tests before the league could reactivate them.

Coke seeks revenge; all eyes on Ginebra

GAMES TODAY (*Philsports Arena*)
5:00 p.m.—Talk N' Text vs San Miguel
7:30 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs FedEx

ALTHOUGH the Coca-Cola Tigers will seek revenge against the FedEx Express on the final playdate of the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup elimination round today, talk centers on the last-minute entry of the Ginebra Kings into the next round.

The Tigers, who got skinned by the Express during their initial meeting in the conference, try to settle the score in the 7:30 p.m. mainer right after Talk N' Text and San Miguel Beer clash in the other game at the Philsports Arena.

But it's Barangay Ginebra's 69-64 win over the Shell Turbochargers (69-64), to secure the last quarterfinal berth, that has fired up the league.

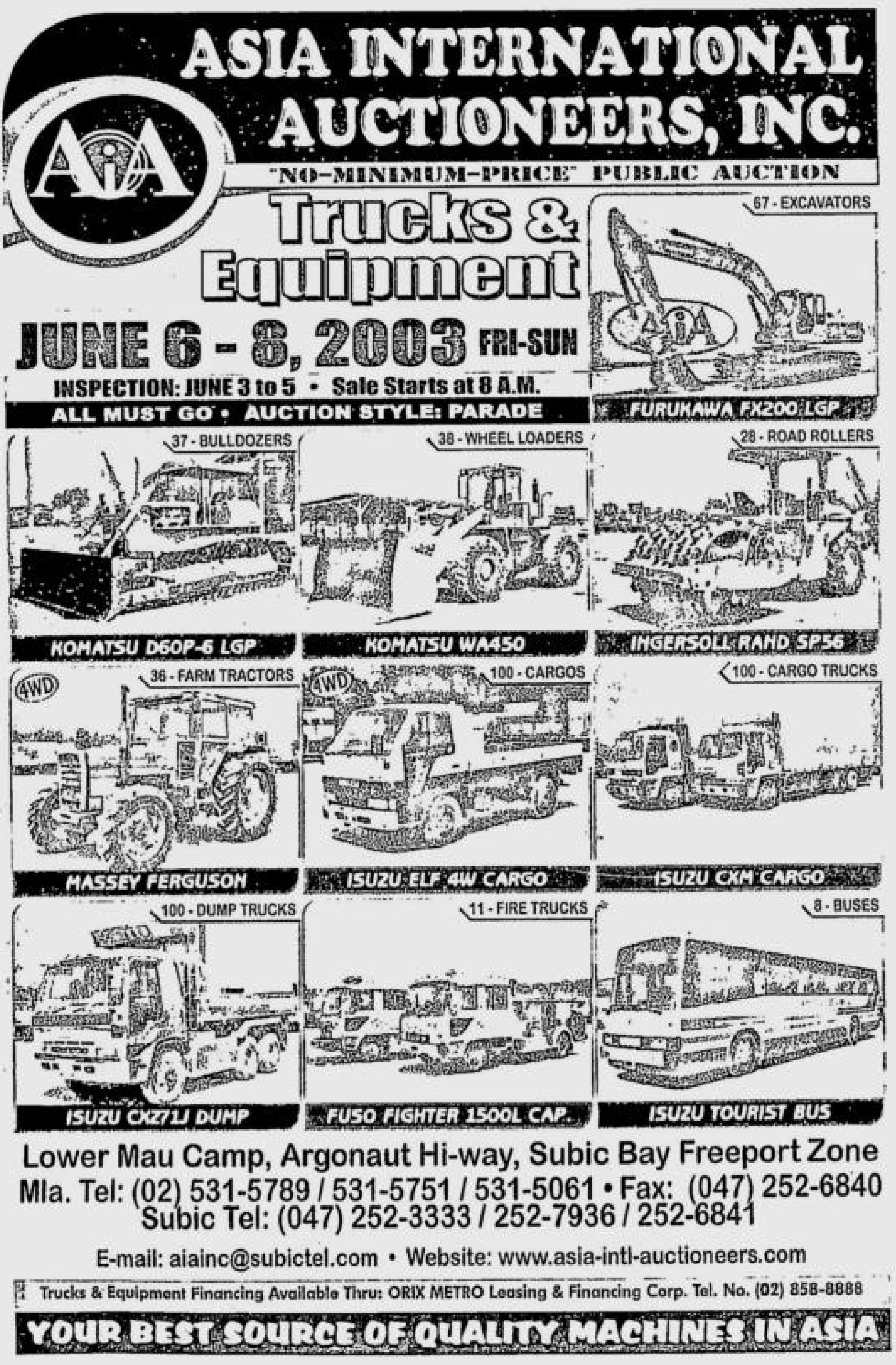
Ginebra coach Allan Caidic said it felt as though the Gin Kings had pulled a long and sharp fishbone out of their throats.

"With that thing removed, we can start all overagain," said Caidic, who sees bright prospects for the Gin Kings in the next round after the All-Star break. *June Navarro*

NCA finals tonight at Araneta

THE FOUR-COCK finals of the NCA 7-Cock Derby will be held tonight at the Araneta Coliseum, rain or shine.

After yesterday's three-cock elimination fights, four entries took the lead by scoring three straight wins, namely KGR St. Joseph of Gerry Ramos and Nene Aguilar, RT 114 JV Binangonan of Jun Velasco, Flyover Jimafer of Ram Lopez and RT 114 BJ Highrise II of Ruel Ricfort. Seven other entries landed in the money by posting each in this derby hosted by Matt Bitanga, Vt Boy Ortencio III, Dicky Lim and Ruel Feliciano and Sons.



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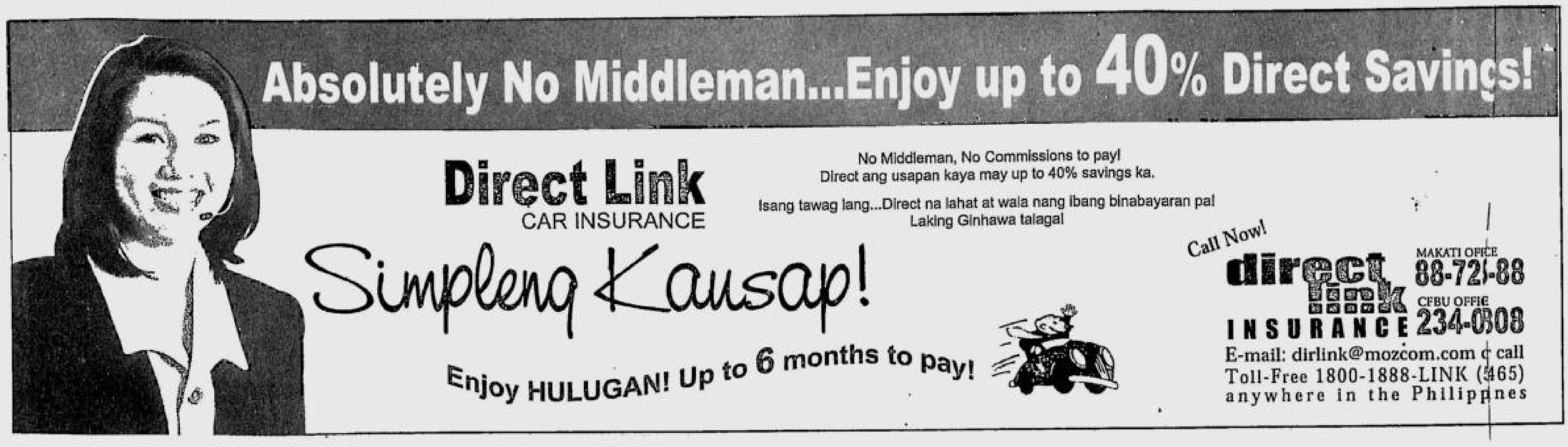

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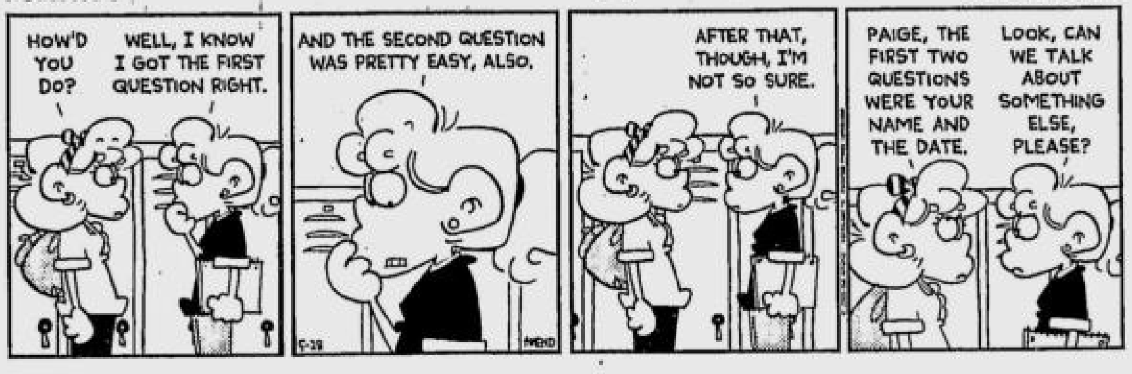
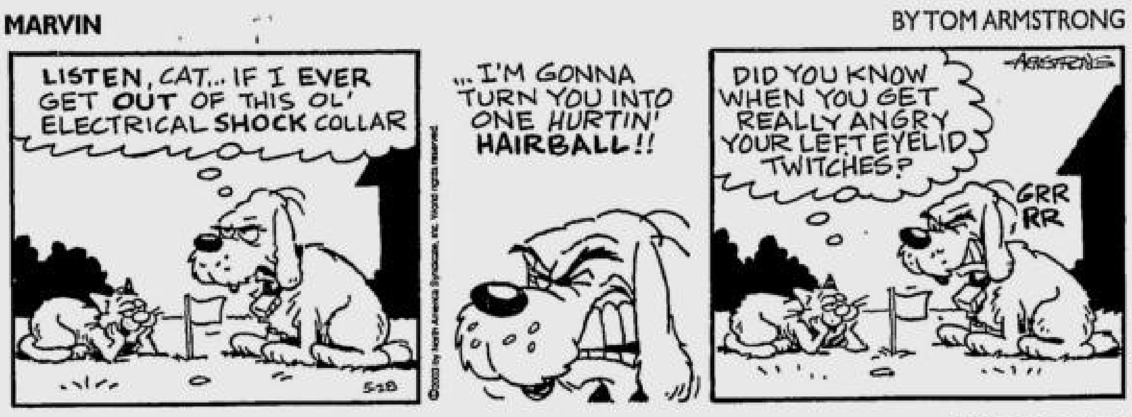
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HOW'D YOU DO?
WELL, I KNOW I GOT THE FIRST QUESTION RIGHT.
AND THE SECOND QUESTION WAS PRETTY EASY, ALSO.
AFTER THAT, THOUGH, I'M NOT SO SURE.
PAIGE, THE FIRST TWO QUESTIONS WERE YOUR NAME AND THE DATE.
LOOK, CAN WE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE, PLEASE?
5-28
AMEND

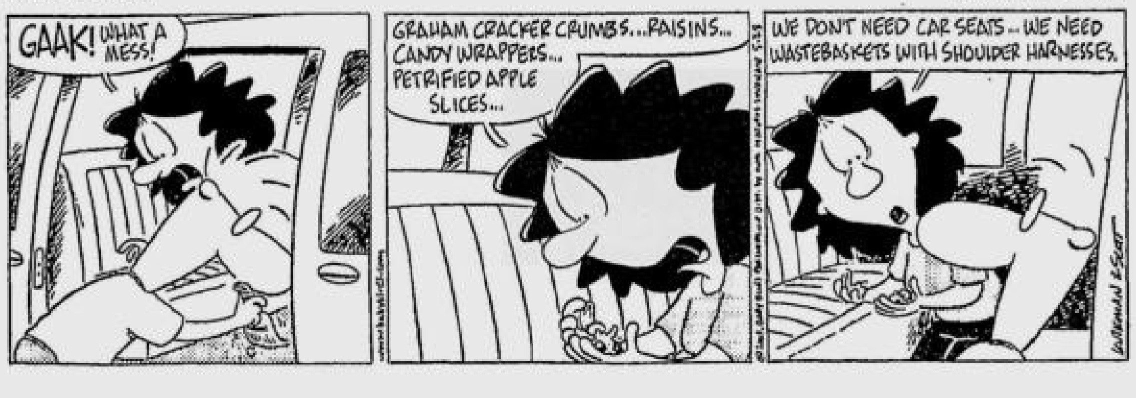
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


LISTEN, CAT... IF I EVER GET OUT OF THIS OL' ELECTRICAL SHOCK COLLAR
...I'M GONNA TURN YOU INTO ONE HURTIN' HAIRBALL!!
DID YOU KNOW WHEN YOU GET REALLY ANGRY YOUR LEFT EYELID TWITCHES?
GRR RR
5-28
ARMSTRONG

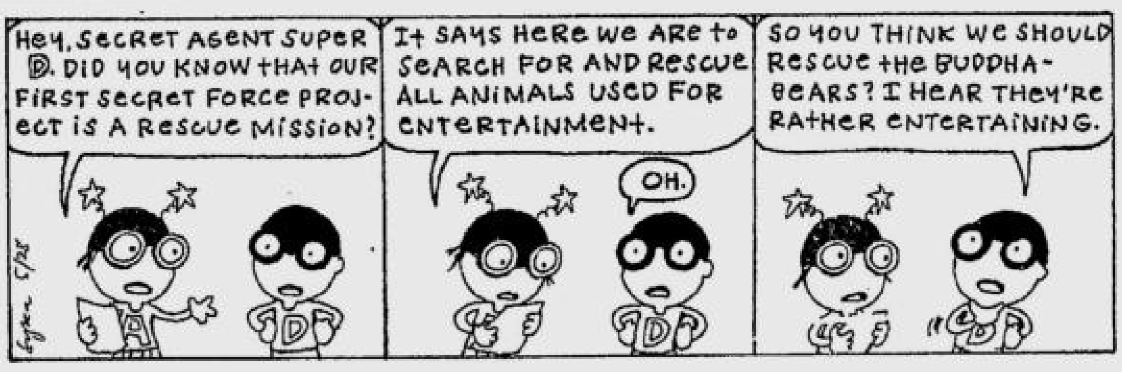
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


GAAK! WHAT A MESS!
GRAHAM CRACKER CRUMBS...RAISINS... CANDY WRAPPERS... PETRIFIED APPLE SLICES...
WE DON'T NEED CAR SEATS... WE NEED WASTEBASKETS WITH SHOULDER HARNESSES.
www.babyblues.com
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, Secret Agent Super D. Did you know that our first secret force project is a rescue mission?
It says here we are to search for and rescue all animals used for entertainment.
OH.
So you think we should rescue the Buddha-bears? I hear they're rather entertaining.
Lyra 5/28

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a unique individual. You pioneer many ideas. What you do is original and often elegant in its simplicity. You are a creative initiator, a starter and one who gets things going. Your enthusiasm is contagious! It's important to believe in yourself. This year focuses on your closest relationships.
Birthdate of: Ian Fleming, writer; Gladys Knight, singer; John Fogerty, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day for shopping. You might easily find a bargain, plus you're in the mood to shop for beautiful things for yourself and loved ones. Enjoy yourself.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Three planets are in your sign today. This means you are favored! Go forth with confidence and charm everyone you meet. (Trust me, you can do this.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): With the Sun in your sign now, you attract favorable opportunities. Be alert for advantages connected with the government or large institutions today. Legal matters also look good.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a wonderful day to enjoy conversations and good times with friends. In fact, all social and group dynamics are beautifully favored. Don't hide—accept invitations!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You are very popular right now. Today in particular you are noticed more than usual. Because of this, make a point of looking your best. (After all, your public awaits.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Travel plans and everything to do with publishing, the media and higher education are blessed today. Try to do something out of the ordinary that is a nice break from your daily routine.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You stand to benefit from the wealth of others today. Perhaps someone gives you something, or perhaps people let you use something they own. By all means, accept graciously.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today's Moon is opposite your sign. This means you have to give more in all your negotiations with others. (You cannot be demanding.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Anything you do today to help yourself get better organized will make you feel good. You want a sense of order to promote your own peace of mind. (And why not?)

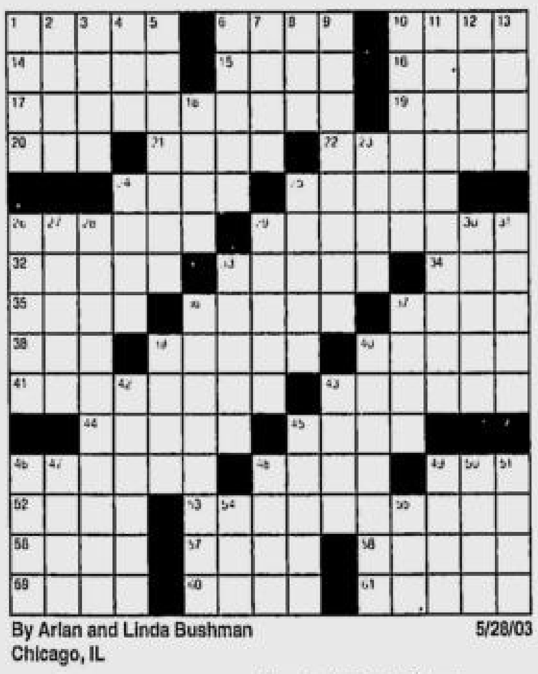
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a marvelous day for fun, flirtation, playful games and silly little pranks. You feel like a kid again! See a movie or enjoy some sports. Do something.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might owe someone at home an apology. This does not necessarily mean you did anything wrong. More likely, you've inadvertently ruffled someone's feathers. (Just apologize.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Conversations with friends please you today. You might hear some interesting gossip. If it would harm someone or cause hurt feelings, make sure it stops with you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Pearly whites
6 Lost traction
10 Wedge shot
14 Arctic dwelling
15 Scale down
16 Greet the judge
17 Skedaddle
19 "The African Queen" screenwriter
20 Harris and Begley
21 Vexed
22 Leash
24 Reach an optimum
25 Steakhouse option
26 Loose-fitting garment
29 360-degree view
32 G-sharp
33 Wonders count
34 Charged particle
35 "The __ of Summer"
36 Stubble
37 Stopper
38 Fate
39 Hip-hop rapper
40 Savoir faire
41 Wispily delicate
43 Serena, to Venus
44 Perrier rival
45 Profusion
46 Believe in
48 Speak with one's hands
49 G-man employer
52 Phoebe or Phobos
53 Skedaddle
56 Conspire
57 Duel tool
58 Front half of a griffin
59 Tree fluids
60 Squabbles
61 Greeting-card message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By Arlan and Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL

5/28/03

DOWN
1 Big Ben info
2 Oh my gosh!
3 Wapitis
4 Lower digit
5 Position under scrutiny
6 Fiery particle
7 Intertwine
8 Annoy
9 Foreordained
10 Impact hole
11 Skedaddle
12 Got it!
13 Equal
18 Horse hue
23 North Carolina university
24 Sch. groups
25 Packers quarterback
26 Broadband provider
27 In progress
28 Skedaddle
29 Oyster discovery
30 Computer clicker
31 Incense
33 Automobile choice
36 Temporary respite
37 Column
39 Tap trouble
40 Trailblazer
42 Happenings
43 Audible exhalation
45 Liturgies
46 Rock gear
47 Pepsi or Coke
48 Ragout
49 Stick-in-the-mud
50 Healing ointment
51 __ fixe (obsession)
54 Wall St. debut
55 Fan noise

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

L	A	I	C	■	I	F	F	Y	■	T	O	W	E	R
I	N	C	A	■	D	O	L	E	■	A	M	A	D	O
S	T	E	M	■	E	R	O	S	■	M	I	T	T	S
A	I	R	B	R	A	K	E	■	G	E	N	E	V	A
■	■	■	R	U	L	E	■	A	R	D	O	R	■	■
T	I	E	I	N	■	D	U	N	E	■	U	S	P	S
A	N	A	C	I	N	■	N	N	E	■	S	N	A	P
C	D	R	■	C	U	P	C	A	K	E	■	A	Y	E
K	I	T	S	■	M	E	L	■	S	P	O	K	E	N
S	A	H	L	■	B	E	E	S	■	S	L	E	E	T
■	■	Q	U	I	L	L	■	P	L	O	D	■	■	■
S	C	U	R	R	Y	■	C	L	A	M	B	A	K	E
O	H	A	R	E	■	R	U	E	D	■	O	B	O	E
T	O	K	E	N	■	A	B	E	L	■	Y	E	L	L
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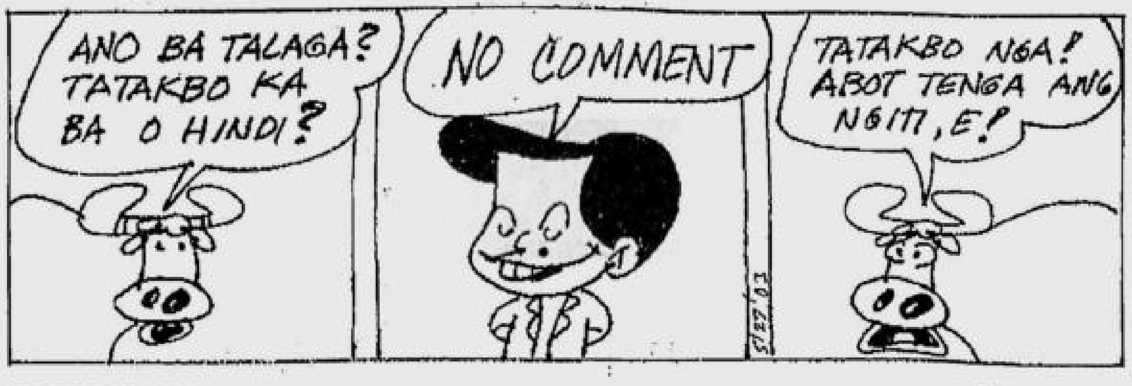
5/28/03

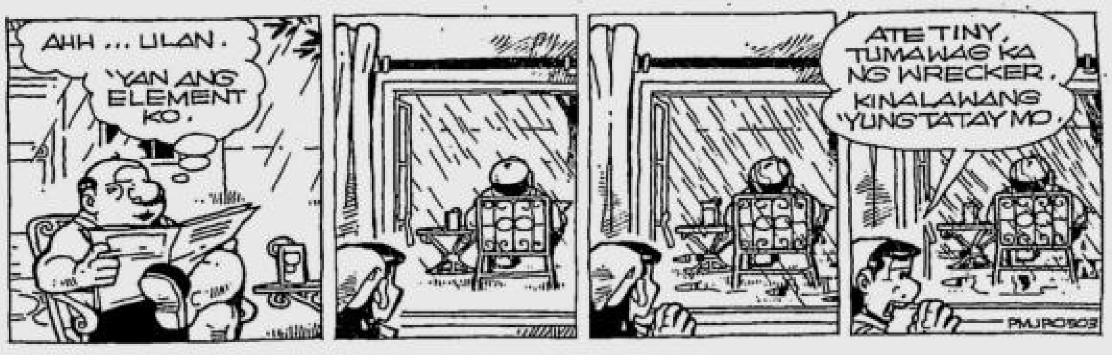
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANO BA TALAGA? TATAKBO KA BA O HINDI?
NO COMMENT
TATAKBO NGA! ABOT TENGA ANG NGITI, E!
5-27-03

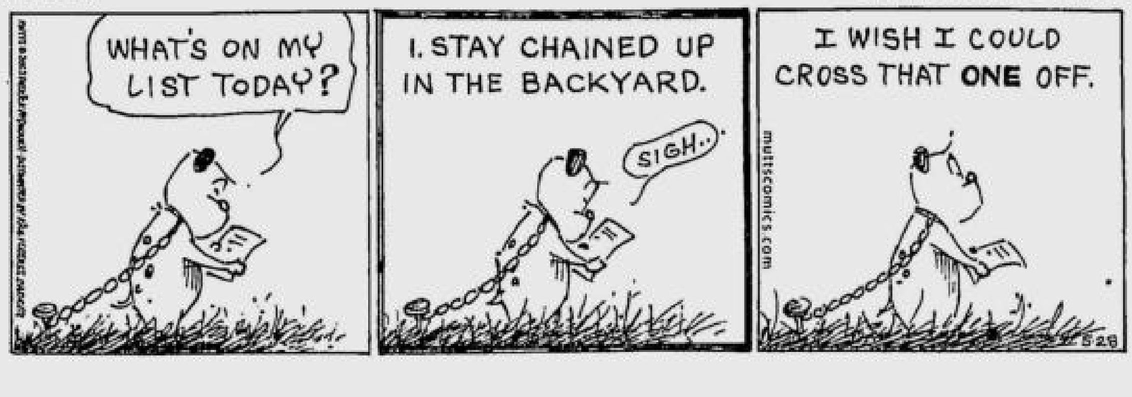
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AHH ... ULAN.
'YAN ANG ELEMENT KO.
ATE TINY, TUMAWAG KA NG WRECKER. KINALAWANG 'YUNG TATAY MO.
PMJR0503

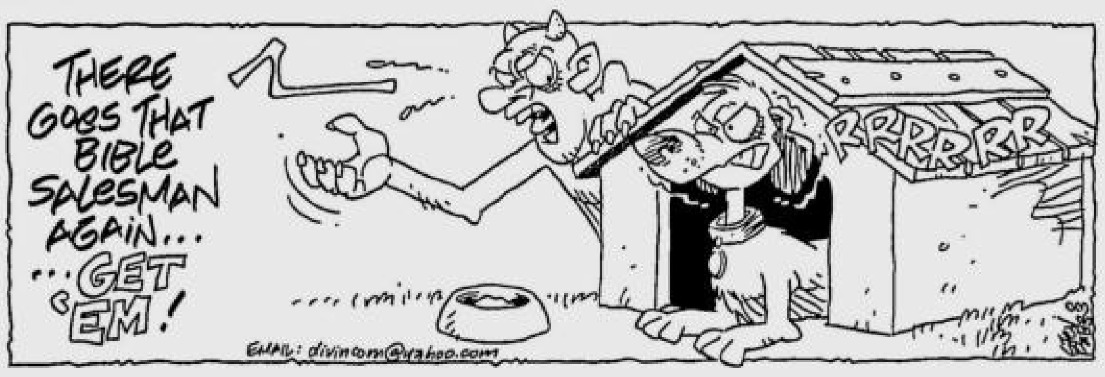
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S ON MY LIST TODAY?
1. STAY CHAINED UP IN THE BACKYARD.
SIGH..
I WISH I COULD CROSS THAT ONE OFF.
muttscomics.com
5-28

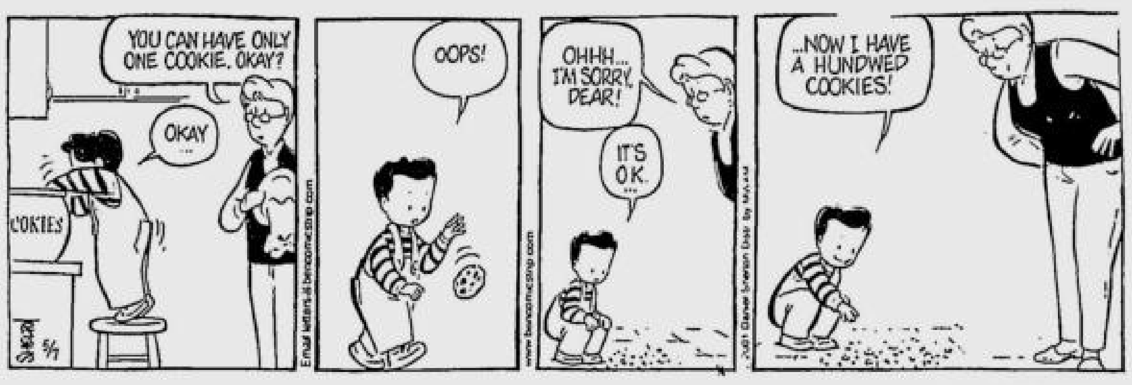
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THERE GOES THAT BIBLE SALESMAN AGAIN... ...GET 'EM!
RRRRRR
EMAIL: divincom@yahoo.com

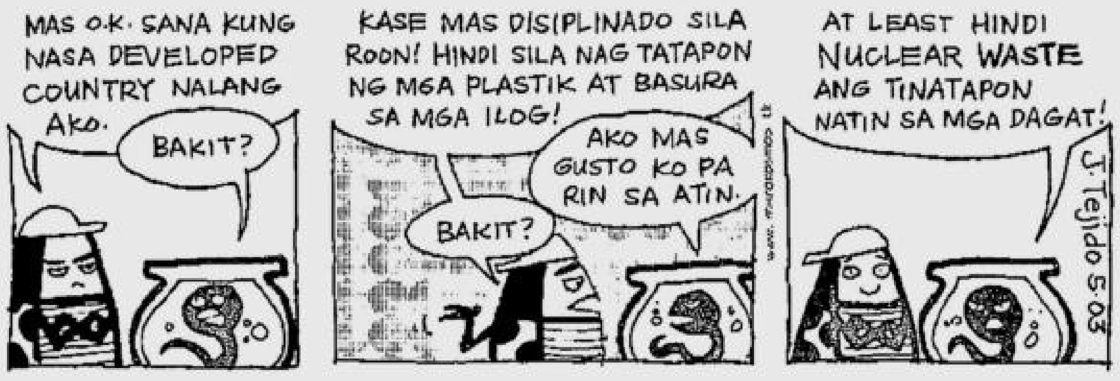
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU CAN HAVE ONLY ONE COOKIE. OKAY?
OKAY
COOKIES
OOPS!
OHHH... I'M SORRY, DEAR!
IT'S OK.
...NOW I HAVE A HUNDWED COOKIES!

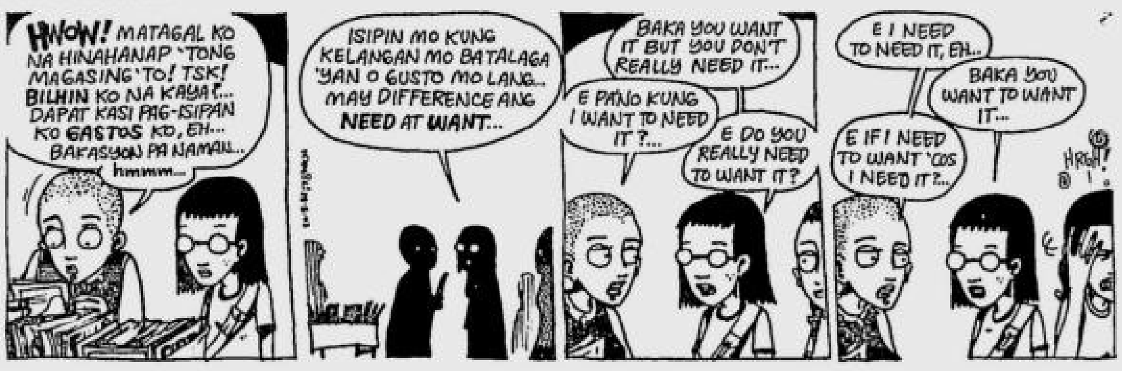
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MAS O.K. SANA KUNG NASA DEVELOPED COUNTRY NALANG AKO.
BAKIT?
KASE MAS DISIPLINADO SILA ROON! HINDI SILA NAG TATAPON NG MGA PLASTIK AT BASURA SA MGA ILOG!
AKO MAS GUSTO KO PA RIN SA ATIN.
BAKIT?
AT LEAST HINDI NUCLEAR WASTE ANG TINATAPON NATIN SA MGA DAGAT!
J. Tejido 5-03

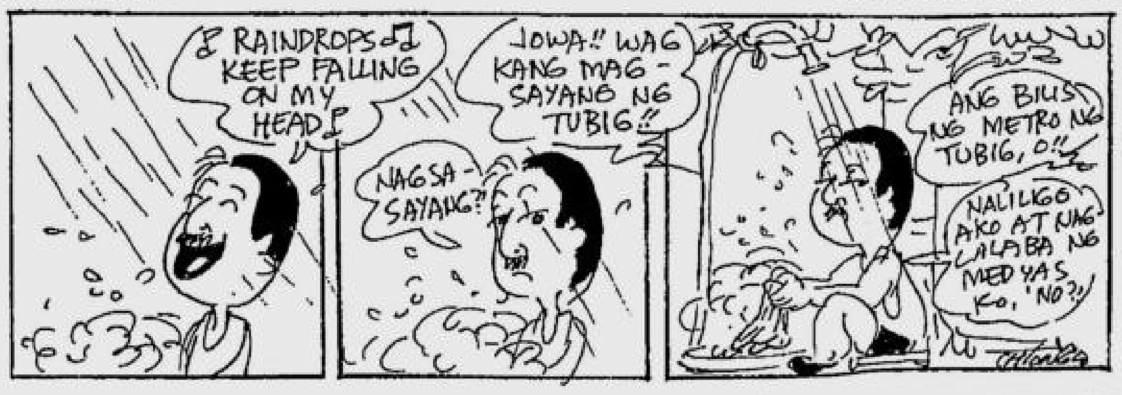
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


WOW! MATAGAL KO NA HINAHANAP 'TONG MAGASING 'TO! TSK! BILHIN KO NA KAYA?... DAPAT KASI PAG-ISIPAN KO GASTOS KO, EH... BAKASYON PA NAMAN...
hmmm...
ISIPIN MO KUNG KELANGAN MO BATALAGA 'YAN O GUSTO MO LANG.. MAY DIFFERENCE ANG NEED AT WANT...
BAKA YOU WANT IT BUT YOU DON'T REALLY NEED IT...
E PANO KUNG I WANT TO NEED IT?...
E DO YOU REALLY NEED TO WANT IT?
E I NEED TO NEED IT, EH..
BAKA YOU WANT TO WANT IT...
E IF I NEED TO WANT 'COS I NEED IT?..
HRGH!

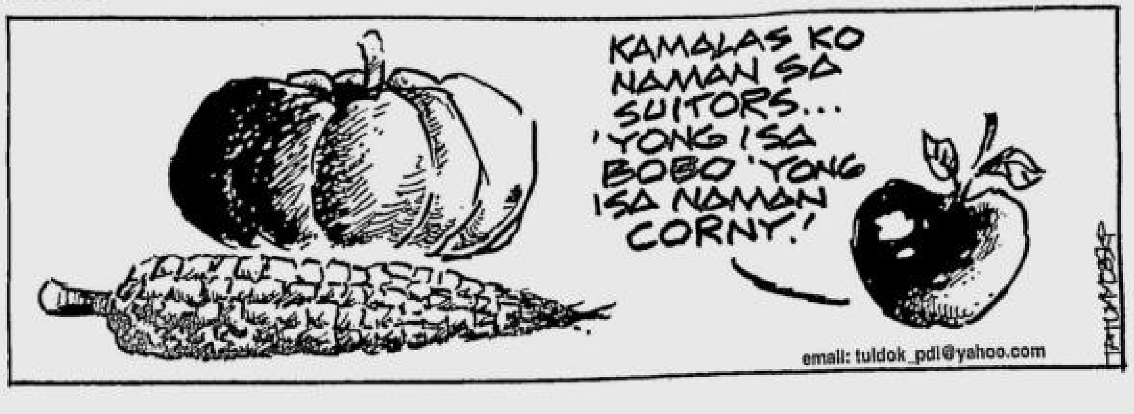
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


♪ RAINDROPS ♫ KEEP FALLING ON MY HEAD ♪
JOWA!! WAG KANG MAG-SAYANG NG TUBIG!!
NAGSA-SAYANG?
ANG BILIS NG METRO NG TUBIG, O!!
NALILIGO AKO AT NAGLALABA NG MEDYAS KO, 'NO?!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


KAMALAS KO NAMAN SA SUITORS... 'YONG ISA BOBO 'YONG ISA NAMAN CORNY!
email: tuldok_pdl@yahoo.com

FRIENDS AND FAMILY join Alma, including (from far left) son Mark Anthony Fernandez, soap co-star Tonton Gutierrez, Francis Magalona, German Moreno and Amy Perez.
RANDY HORMILLOSA

Alma sings, dances to get ...

From page A32

day because she was also thinking of her mother, who died last year.

"I was so used to seeing her around every time I celebrated my birthday, and I felt sad that she was not with us this year," she said.

Alma's fellow show biz stars performed in the show for free, including the "Master Showman," German Moreno.

"*Lahat ng artista* for the love of *lang ang* participation," Alma said.

Her costars in the GMA 7 soap "Habang Kapiling Ka"—Tonton Gutierrez, Amy Perez and Ricky Davao—were also present.

So were her and Joey's children: VJ, Yeoj and Win-Win. She sang "Through the Years" with them.

The show also featured the performances of Francis Magalona, Kyla, Allan K, the sexy dancers G-Girls from ABS-CBN's "Masayang Tanghali Bayan," and the Sex Bomb dancers from GMA 7's "Eat Bulaga."

Alma was greeted on video by stars such as Vilma Santos, Sharon Cuneta, Bong Revilla Jr., Aiko Melendez, Herbert Bautista, Janno Gibbs, and Ogie Alcasid, as well as industry colleagues Marichu Vera-Perez Maceda and Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo.

Alma's former live-in partner, Rudy Fernandez, greeted her live at the astrodome. Their son Mark Anthony Fernandez quietly sat in the audience and watched the show.

Vandolph Quizon, Alma's son with ace comedian Dolphy, also performed in the show.

Marquez was in Cebu City that same day, together with public school supervisors and principals from Parañaque.

For the finale, Alma sang and danced to the tune of Kool and the Gang's "Celebration" with Geleen Eugenio and her dancers.

The show lasted nearly four hours and the people stayed till the end despite the rains.

Regine booked up to yearend

SHOW TIME

REGINE Velasquez is a very busy songbird these days.

On May 30, Regine, also known as Asia's Songbird, goes back to her roots in "Regine Returns: A Homecoming Concert," in her hometown of Baliuag, Bulacan.

On June 14, she and concert king Martin Nievera will do a repeat of their 2003 World Concert Tour at the Araneta Coliseum.

On June 28, Regine and Martin will bring their show to Clark Field in Pampanga.

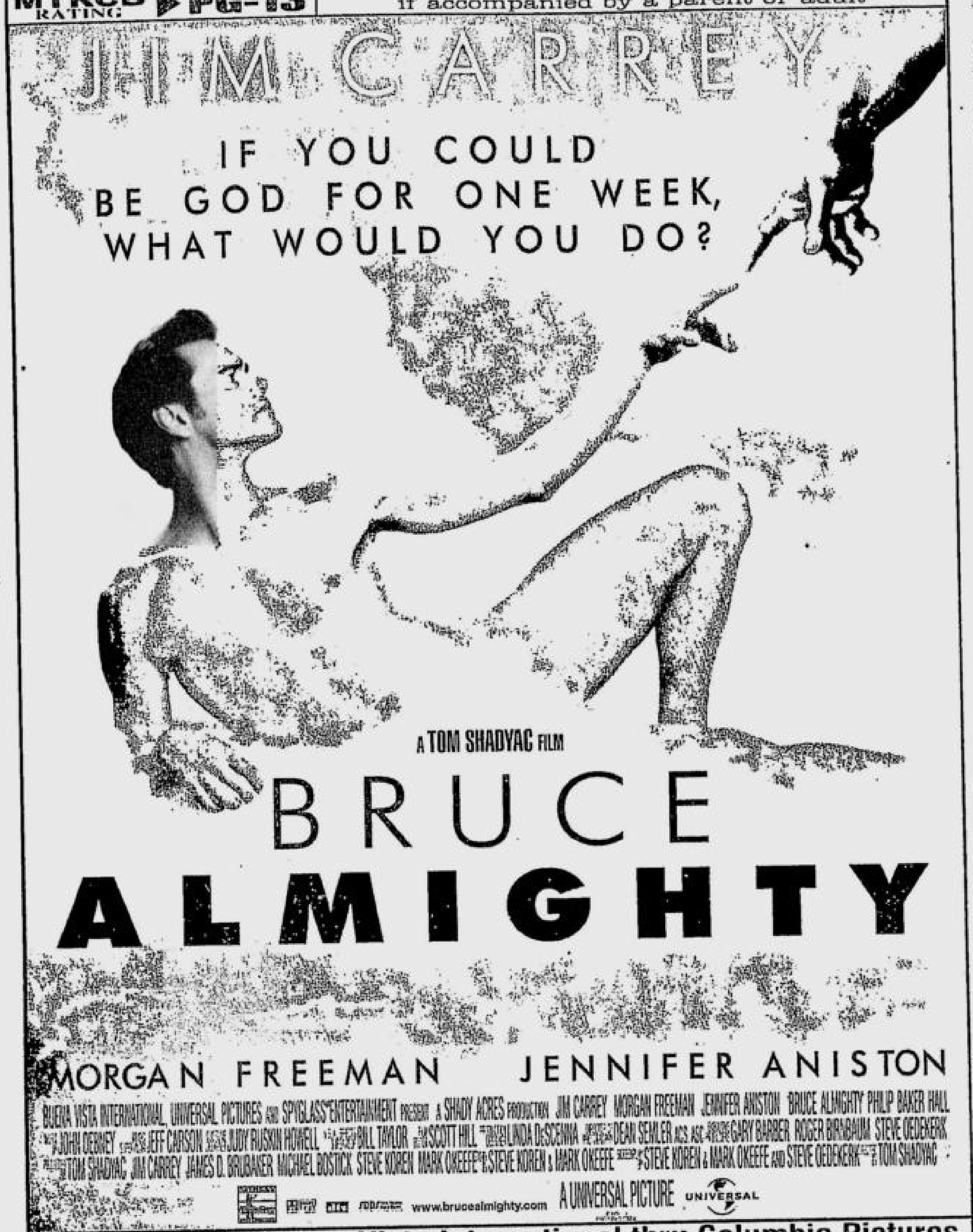
Regine is also promoting her reunion movie with drama king Christopher de Leon, "Pangarap Kong Ibigin Ka," for Viva Films. The film is one of the entries in the Manila Film Festival.

The movie also features an original soundtrack from Viva Records featuring Regine, with "Pangarap Kong Ibigin Ka" as the carrier single.

"Pangarap Kong Ibigin Ka" the movie is directed by Louie Ignacio and also stars Dingdong Dantes, Lara Fabregas and Gladys Guevarra.

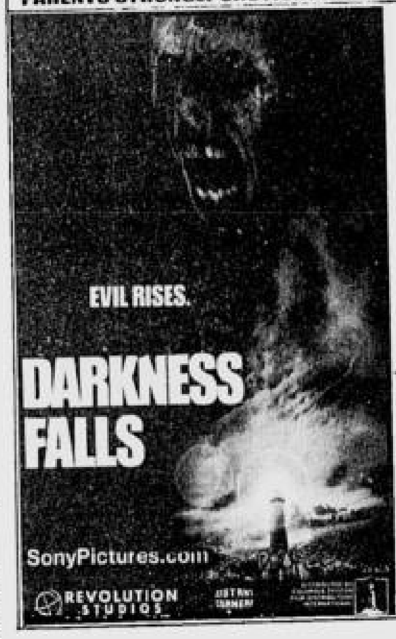
Regine has also found the time to stage a fund-raising show for Bridges Foundation Inc., a non-stock, non-profit institution with a school for special children in Quezon City, on July 26 at the Makati Shangri-La.

THE #1 MOVIE IN THE U.S.!
THE COMEDY EVENT OF THE YEAR OPENS TODAY!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



JIM CARREY
IF YOU COULD BE GOD FOR ONE WEEK, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
A TOM SHADYAC FILM
BRUCE ALMIGHTY
MORGAN FREEMAN JENNIFER ANISTON
BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL, UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND SPYGLASS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT A SHADY ACRES PRODUCTION JIM CARREY MORGAN FREEMAN JENNIFER ANISTON "BRUCE ALMIGHTY" PHILIP BAKER HALL JOHN DEBNEY JEFF CARSON JUDY RUSKIN HOWELL BILL TAYLOR SCOTT HILL LINDA DeSCENNA DEAN SEMLER ACS, ASC GARY BARBER ROGER BIRNBAUM STEVE OEDEKERK TOM SHADYAC JIM CARREY JAMES D. BRUBAKER MICHAEL BOSTICK STEVE KOREN MARK OKEEFE STEVE KOREN & MARK OKEEFE STEVE KOREN & MARK OKEEFE AND STEVE OEDEKERK TOM SHADYAC
www.brucealmighty.com A UNIVERSAL PICTURE UNIVERSAL
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED: Some scenes may be inappropriate for children under age 13



'Darkness Falls'
Scream all you can on June 4!
Legend says an old woman wrongly accused of a heinous crime was savagely slaughtered in the town of Darkness Falls 150 years ago. The vengeful spirit of 'the Tooth Fairy', hangs over the townspeople, ready to pounce on anyone who sees her in the dark.
A young man returns to this hometown to confront his haunted past, and perhaps save his childhood sweetheart and her younger brother from the unrelenting evil of the Tooth Fairy.
You'll never go in the dark alone again! Kakaba-kaba ka ba? Bring a date or the whole barkada -- and hold on for your dear life!

MTRCB ▶ R-13

Looks can be deceiving.
莫文蔚 KAREN MOK 舒淇 SHU QI 趙薇 ZHAO WEI
夕陽天使
so close
www.so-close.com

Strictly for 13 years of age and up
Sexy Asian angels display amazing martial arts techniques in 'So Close'
Lynn (Shu Qi) and Sue (Zhao Wei) are sexy and beautiful sisters whose parents were brutally killed by powerful underworld figures. Disillusioned with the law and armed with amazing computer and kung fu skills (not to mention an enviable fashion style), the seductive sisters become professional assassins, killing criminals for other criminals.
Gutsy and brilliant female cop Yat Hong (Karen Mok) relentlessly pursue the sisters, who are in turn fascinated by their tough adversary.
SO CLOSE, starring Asia's most alluring and talented young actresses, features the coolest, breath-taking martial arts sequences from world-renowned director Cory Yuen, Jet Li's martial arts choreographer in THE ONE, KISS OF THE DRAGON and ROMEO MUST DIE. Don't miss it!
SECOND WEEK

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
Wagi sa puso ng masa, siguradong patok sa takilya!
Ai-Ai delas Alas
MARVIN Agustin CARLO Aquino HEART Evangelista NIKKI Valdez
SHAINA Magdayao SERENA Dalrymple JIRO Manio ALWYN Uytingco
With the Special Participation of: Tonton Gutierrez Jestoni Alarcon Dennis Padilla John Prats
Kaye Abad Angelica Panganiban & Edu Manzano

INTRODUCING: Marc Acueza, Yuuki Kadooka
ang Tanging INA

DIRECTED BY: Wenn V. Deramas
STAR CINEMA
GRAND OPENING TODAY

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS JUNE 4 AT ArtFilm
DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

WHO IS CLETIS TOUT?

Getting the alias was half the battle. Surviving it is the other.
WHO IS
CLETIS TOUT?
CHRISTIAN SLATER, RICHARD DREYFUSS, PORTIA DE ROSSI & TIM ALLEN
A prison escapee (Slater) assumes the identity of a deceased man named Cletis Tout, but soon discovers that someone had a contract out on Cletis' life, so now the escapee has to deal with not only the police, but a hitman (Allen) as well.
"A gem of a romantic crime comedy that turns out to be clever, amusing and unpredictable."
-- Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	PAKNERS
Ali 2	TANGING INA
Ali 3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
Ali 4	MATRIX RELOADED
Ali 5	AGENT CODY BANKS
Ali 6	FRIDA
Ali 7	KAPITBAHAY

ARANETA COLISEUM

MAY 28	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
MAY 30	PBA GAMES
MAY 31	PBA FANS DAY
JUNE 14	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT
JUNE 16,18,20	WORLD SLASHER CUP

ELEPHANT WORLD

ELEPHANT SHOW
REOPENING SOON !

FUN RIDES
TAGADISCO • VIKING SHIP
START 4PM (DAILY)

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	PAKNERS
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	HIRAM
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	DAYO
B	HIRAM
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DAYO
CINEMA-2	ANGHEL SA LUPA
CINEMA-3	HIRAM
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-6	KIKAY
CINEMA-7	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-8	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SO CLOSE
CINEMA-12	HOW TO LOSE A GUY
CINEMA-14	RING 0
CINEMA-15	WALANG KAPALIT

LORES

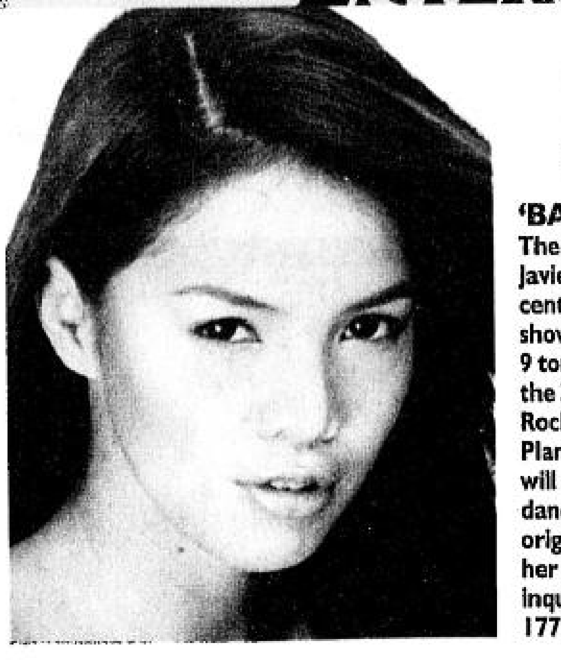
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

CINEMA 1	WALANG KAPALIT
CINEMA 2	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA 3	FINAL DESTINATION 2
CINEMA 4	NATIONAL SECURITY

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



SHOW TIME

'BARENAKED' The sexy Patricia Javier will take centerstage in a solo show, "Barenalced," 9 tonight at Dish, at the 3rd level of Rockwell's Power Plant Mall. Patricia will render sexy dance routines and original cuts from her solo album. For inquiries, call 898-1771 or 898-1824.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SO CLOSE **R13** 12:25,2:45,5:05, 7:25,9:45	**MATRIX: RELOADED** **R13** 12:40,3:35, 6:30,9:25	**HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS** **P13** 11:55,2:25,4:55,7:25,9:55
MATRIX: RELOADED **R13** 1:35,4:30, 7:25,10:20	**MATRIX: RELOADED** **R13** 11:45,2:40, 5:35,8:30	**HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS** **P13** 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

OPENS TOMORROW

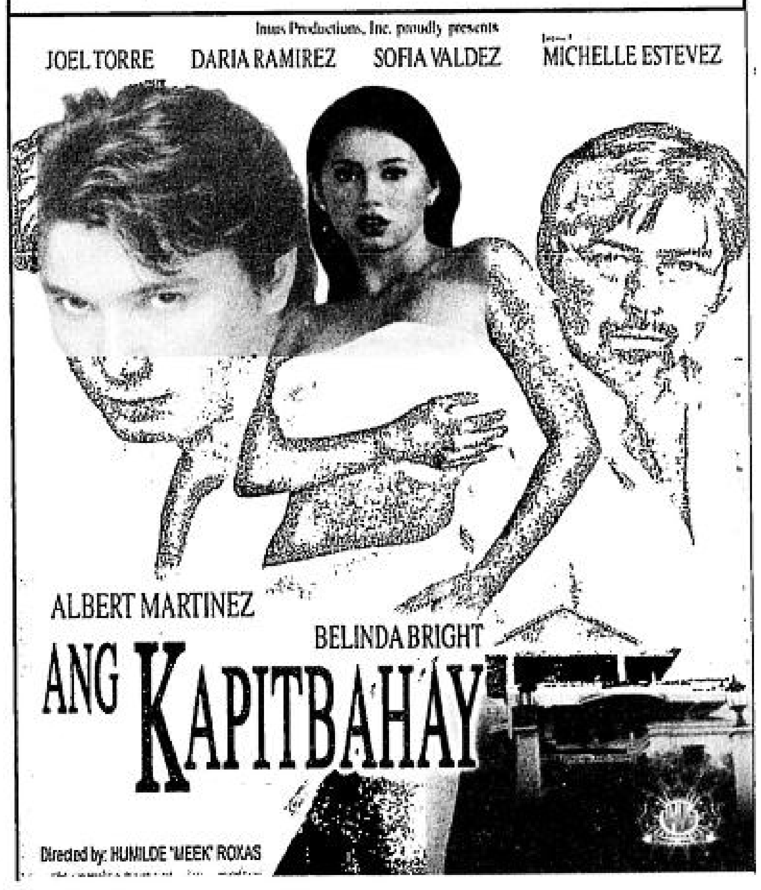
MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

APPROVED WITHOUT CUTS BY THE MTRCB

BELINDA BRIGHT'S ACTING BLINDS THE EYES WITH ITS EMINENCE. – **EDGAR CRUZ, *TRIBUNE STAR STUDIO***

ALBERT IS GOOD AS USUAL AS THE OBSESSED JEALOUS HUSBAND. GOOD PRODUCTION VALUES. – **MARIO BAUTISTA, *PEOPLE'S JOURNAL***

KAKAIBA SIYA. HINDI SIYA BADUY, HINDI PREDICTABLE ANG ENDING. – **DANNY VIBAS, *MANILA TIMES***


Imus Productions, Inc. proudly presents
JOEL TORRE
DARIA RAMIREZ
SOFIA VALDEZ
MICHELLE ESTEVEZ
ALBERT MARTINEZ
BELINDA BRIGHT
ANG KAPITBAHAY
Directed by: HUMILDE 'MEEK' ROXAS

OPM coming up with musical ...

From page C32

own mannerisms—proof that genes and constant example virtually assure that show biz kids end up as chips off the old block.

Since Edu has had a very successful career on TV, this indicates that Luis will also do well on the small screen. As for the movies, he could even surpass his father, if his mom's acting prowess also rubs off on him.

It's likely that he'll start out in lighthearted film vehicles, but his thespic inheritance will have to be definitively tested in a demanding dramatic vehicle.

Meanwhile, Luis has his hands full with his TV assignments, where he's doing his stellar parents proud. So, the movies can wait until next year?

Feedback

FROM **Boy Blue P. Filomeno**, spokesperson of the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography: "It seems that bad habits die for **Willie Revillame.** After being suspended for bad behavior on TV, he's back on 'MTB.' For a while, it looked like he had toned down.

"Unfortunately, he's now back to assaulting the TV audience with coarse, sex-related jokes. Has he not learned his lesson?

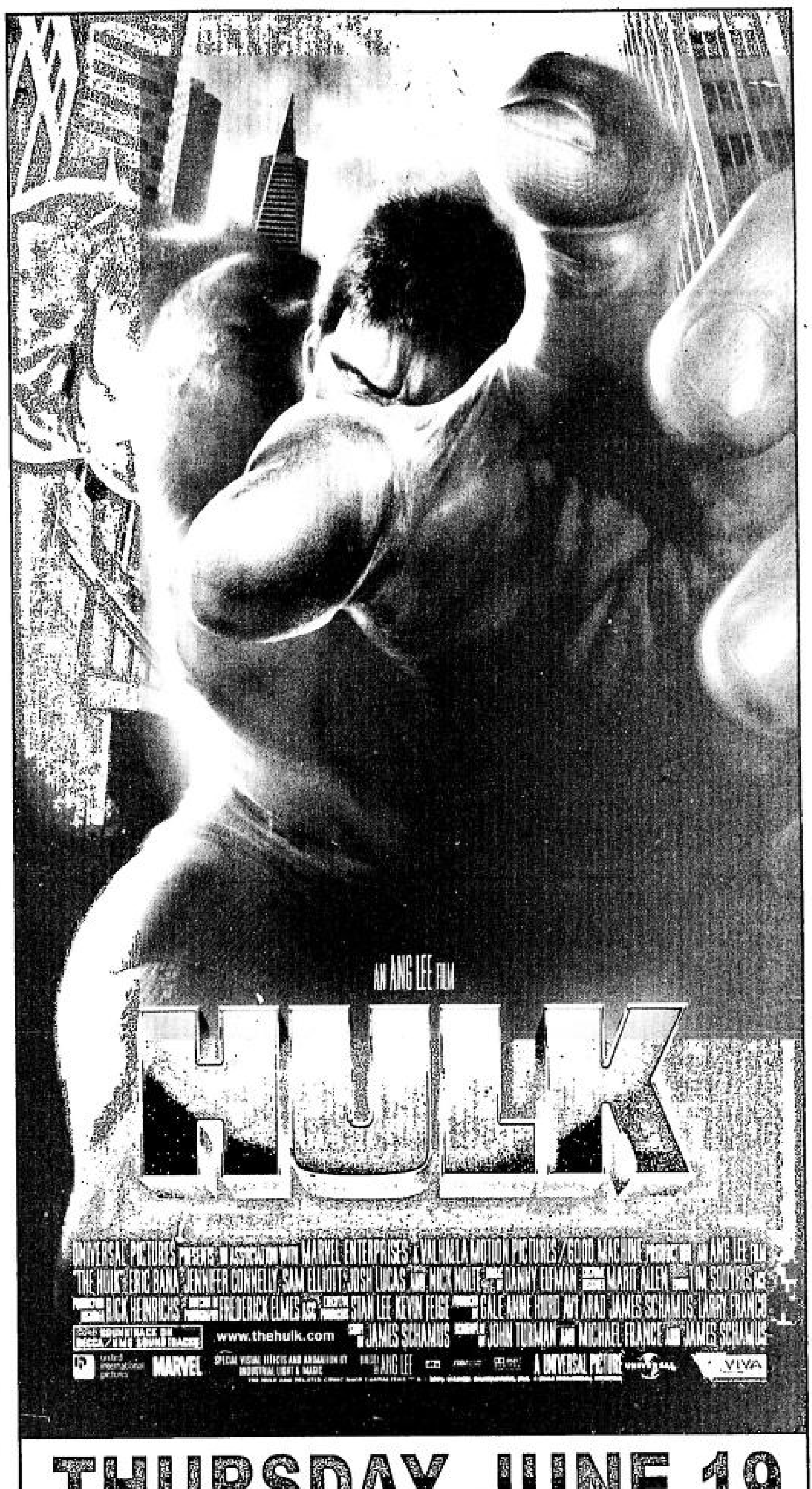
"We also decry the behavior of **Randy Santiago** and **John Estrada** on 'MTB.' Why is ABS-CBN allowing it?"

* * *

From **Ella D. Zafra** of Makati City: "I support your efforts and share your concern about the way that sex has been able to insinuate itself into our TV screens, even during the daytime hours, when so many impressionable children are listening and watching.

"But really, it's more than sex, it's a generally tacky and malicious view of life that's communicated in the dirty jokes, gossip, crass comments and other turn-offs on television.

"I hope that the MTRCB, the KBP and other watchdog groups become stricter and more vigilant, so that the erring TV channels will be forced to toe the line. But I agree with you that the reform campaign has to start with us, the viewers, because we are the ones at the receiving end of all these deplorable practices on TV."


AN ANG LEE FILM
HULK
UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH MARVEL ENTERPRISES A VALHALLA MOTION PICTURES / GOOD MACHINE PRODUCTION AN ANG LEE FILM
"THE HULK" ERIC BANA JENNIFER CONNELLY SAM ELLIOTT JOSH LUCAS AND NICK NOLTE
DANNY ELFMAN
MARIT ALLEN
TIM SQUYRES
RICK HEINRICHS
FREDERICK ELMES
STAN LEE KEVIN FEIGE
GALE ANNE HURD AVI ARAD JAMES SCHAMUS LARRY FRANCO
SOUNDTRACK ON DECCA / UMG SOUNDTRACKS
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MARVEL
SPECIAL VISUAL EFFECTS AND ANIMATION BY INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC
ANG LEE
A UNIVERSAL PICTURE
VIVA

THURSDAY JUNE 19

Enchanted Kingdom

THIS SUMMER, WE'RE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.

DATE	DAYS	OPERATING HOURS
March 31-June 1	Monday-Friday	2pm-10pm
	Saturday-Sunday	10am-10pm
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE		
April 26 8th Annual Grand Fireworks Competition	Saturday	10am-10pm (competition starts at 7pm)
May 1, Labor Day	Thursday	10am-10pm
May 17 & 24	Saturday	**CLOSED** for a private function

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC WITH OUR AFFORDABLE TICKET RATES (Effective May 1, 2003)

	WEEKDAY	WEEKEND	
EK DAY PASS	Php 400.00	Php 500.00	Access to 19 all-time favorite rides!
WIZARD'S TREAT	Php 300.00	Php 300.00	A magical combo of unlimited carousel rides plus Php 300 in Wizard Money!
CAROUSEL SPECIAL	Php 100.00	Php 100.00	A grand experience! All carousel, all the time!
*4D DISCOVERY THEATER	Php 40.00 (EK Day Pass) Php 80.00 (Carousel Special)	Php 40.00 (EK Day Pass) Php 80.00 (Carousel Special)	Don't just see and hear a movie... be a part of it!
XTREME PAINTBALL	Php 100/day	Php 100/day	Inclusive of CO2 marker, mask, headgear, vest and 20 rounds of paintballs.

*Opening this May

Visit our website: www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph

Makati Sales Office: G/F. Tropical Palms Condominium, De la Rosa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City • Park Address: Enchanted Kingdom, San Lorenzo South, Sta. Rosa, Laguna • Tel. No.: 830-2111 to 16, 843-6073 to 78 • Tickets also available at all Ticketworld outlets: National Bookstore branches • Tower Records (Makati, Alabang) • Robinson's Department Stores (Galleria, Manila)

PEPSI

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Alma sings, dances to get elected in '04

By Leah Salterio

IF SINGING and dancing can help you win an election, then Alma Moreño can count on a lot of votes when she runs for mayor in Parañaque City next year.

Alma, whose estranged husband Joey Marquez is on his third and last term as Parañaque's mayor, started an early election campaign by putting up a star-studded free birthday concert last Sunday night at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

Alma is 44.

The astrodome was filled with more than 8,000 people who were all residents of Parañaque, according to Alma herself.

"It was the best gift that I got, seeing the people of Parañaque in my birthday concert," the actress, already sounding like a politician, told INQUIRER Entertainment. "Their presence was enough to make my birthday complete."

Gene Puzon, Alma's running mate in the 2004 election, had issued ID cards from Alma's foundation, Alma Moreno Para sa Mamamayan, to Parañaque residents who wanted to watch the concert. Coordinators at the Cuneta Astrodome main entrance checked the ID cards of people who came to watch the show.

But Alma said she had mixed feelings that

ALMA/ A30

YOU COMPLETE ME. Alma watches her show, which includes a song by her sons VJ (middle) and Yeoj (right).

RANDY HORMILLOSA

OPM coming up with musical registry

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHENEVER we're asked by producers to help cast stage, TV or film projects, we rue the lack of a comprehensive list of talents we can consult, so we can come up with more informed decisions. All too often, producers, directors, and writers have to make-do with the iffy method of relying on the names they can remember on the spot when they have to make casting decisions.

There really should be a separate industry lists for actors, musical talents, dancers, etc., complete with addresses and phone numbers, to enable decision-makers to arrive at the best casting choices for any given project.

That's why we congratulate the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM) for launching its registry of Filipino musical artists and their works. OPM enjoins singers, composers, lyricists, arrangers, musicians, and their recording companies and talent managers to submit data to the registry. Deadline is on May 30.

The registry, which is supported by an NCCA grant, is an updated listing of living and deceased Filipino performing artists and their original works. Entries will include brief biographies, a chronological list of performed or published original works, year of first publication or performance, name of producer or publisher, awards,.etc.

OPM president **Mitch Valdes** hopes that the registry will serve as an information resource for students, teachers, researchers, commercial end-users (like producers), cultural institutions, and enthusiasts of Philippine music and its various gifted exponents.

The registry will come out in book-catalogue, CD-ROM and website formats, and will be distributed nationwide, and through Philippine embassies abroad. Call **Elmar Beltran Ingles** at 723-1765, fax 721-7229 or email opm@I-manila.com.ph.

We hope that a similar registry for stage-TV-radio-film actors can be initiated by the Actors Guild or the Actors Workshop Foundation. That way, casting musical and non-musical productions on the local entertainment or theater scene need no longer be a shot-in-the-dark kind of activity.

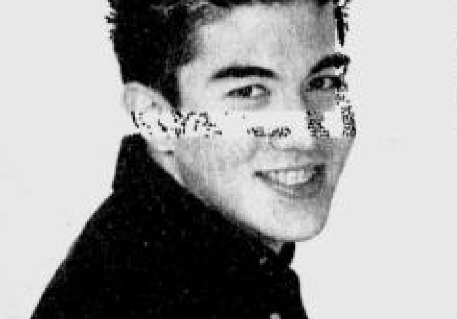
Chip off the old block

WHEN he was growing up, **Lucky Manzano** was more closely identified with his mother, **Vilma Santos**, than with his dad, **Edu**. This was because, at the end of her weekly TV show, Vilma would invariably coo, "I love you, Lucky!"

Now that he's a young man, however, Lucky has chosen his Christian name, the less juvenile **Luis**, has embarked on a career on TV as VJ and co-host on various shows, and has begun to come across more like Edu, who's a past master at TV hosting.

On a music video show recently, Luis showed that there's more of Edu to him than was initially apparent. As he bantered with his fellow VJ, Luis' reactions and body language were strongly reminiscent of his dad's

OPM/ C31



THESPIC INHERITANCE. Luis Manzano show there's more of Edu to him than was initially apparent.

PARENTAL ADVISORY

You may be getting poor quality education for the high tuition fees you pay other computer colleges and universities.

TUITION FEE:

Other Computer Colleges & Universities	STI
₱22,000 or more (2-3x a year)	₱16,000 or less (2x a year)

At STI, for a tuition fee as low as ₱6,605, you get quality education worth about ₱500,000.* So if you complete our 4-year course, that's quality education worth ₱4,000,000!*

That's because at STI, we give our students personalized attention. We can do this because STI is the only school with a **Standardized Courseware** developed and constantly updated by more than 80 experts and consultants. Our comprehensive lesson plans assure that our teachers can give you more quality for your education. It's like getting 80 specialists for the price of one teacher! Can others beat that?

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BSP sees peso at 52-53 to $1 this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday expressed optimism that the peso would firm up at 52-53 to the dollar this year despite the expected deterioration in the country's balance-of-payment (BOP) position.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who earlier admitted that the BOP might incur a deficit of about $500 million this year or a reversal of the $100-$200 million surplus target, said other favorable economic indicators should offset the weakening of this external account.

The country's BOP—which measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world—yielded a surplus of $660 million in 2002.

Buenaventura brushed aside concerns that a weaker BOP might lead to the renewed weakening of the local currency.

The National Economic and Development Authority, for instance, is expecting economic growth in the first quarter to exceed the target of 4-4.5 percent as leading indicators such as electricity and appliance sales reflected a healthy domestic consumption.

The speedy resolution of the US-led military campaign in Iraq, which exerted pressure on interest rates in the early months of the year, has also led to the softening of interest and inflation rates.

Based on the BSP's latest survey, business sentiment has likewise turned bullish in the second quarter, with most enterprises anticipating higher volume or better access to funding facilities in the months ahead.

Buenaventura's expectations of a stable peso countered projections by some foreign banks that the local currency could again deteriorate to 55 to 56 by year's end.

The BSP earlier hoped that inflows from exports and investments could compensate for the lack of foreign loan proceeds that could shore up the BOP.

"Unfortunately, the SARS (viral outbreak) and the possible slowdown in the US economy may mean more modest foreign exchange inflows," Buenaventura said.

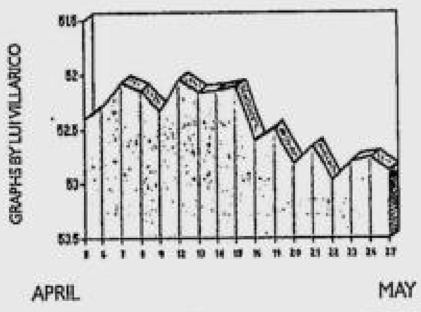
He stressed, however, that the BSP would be ready to defer its own borrowing plan to give way to the national government.

The Macapagal administration, on the other hand, had said it would not tap the foreign bond market until state-owned National Power Corp. shall have satisfied its own borrowing needs.

The BSP has to settle maturing obligations of $200 million in October, while the government has to raise another $900 million to complete its $2.4-billion foreign commercial borrowing program for this year.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 52.88 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 27, 2003

¥ 116.84 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 27, 2003

GOLD: $371.60-372.30

per ounce Hong Kong, May 27, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower

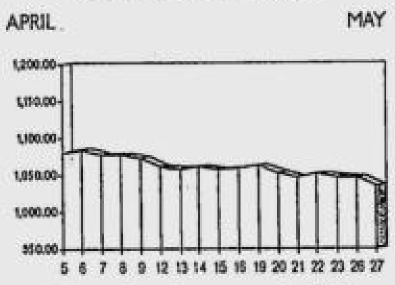
SHARES ended more than one percent lower yesterday with most leading large caps knocked back on concerns first-quarter economic growth data might be weaker than government expectations, traders said.

The main index slid 10.95 points, or 1.05 percent, to 1,035.99, its lowest finish for two months. Turnover reached P331.04 million from P235.62 million on Monday.

The gross domestic product data are due out tomorrow with Eco-

STOCKS/ B5

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

CURRENCIES

May 27, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.845166	1.000000	52.774000
Japan	Yen	0.007235	0.008561	0.451800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.383029	1.636400	86.359400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.108376	0.128230	6.767200
Switzerland	Franc	0.655828	0.775976	40.951400
Canada	Dollar	0.615696	0.728491	38.445400
Singapore	Dollar	0.490748	0.580653	30.643400
Australia	Dollar	0.555628	0.657419	34.694600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.241938	2.652661	139.991500
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225372	0.266660	14.072700
Brunei	Dollar	0.489327	0.578972	30.554700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000121	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.020196	0.023895	1.261000
UAE	Dirham	0.230121	0.272279	14.369300
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.183200	62.442200
Argentina	Peso	0.294483	0.348432	18.388200
Brazil	REAL	0.288354	0.341180	18.005400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134688	0.159363	8.410200
India	Rupee	0.018070	0.021381	1.128400
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.222442	0.263193	13.889700
Mexico	New Peso	0.082544	0.097666	5.154200
New Zealand	Dollar	0.491976	0.582106	30.720100
Norway	Kroner	0.126962	0.150222	7.927800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014686	0.017376	0.917000
South Africa	Rand	0.107409	0.127086	6.706800
Korea	Won	0.000708	0.000838	0.044200
Sweden	Kroner	0.108819	0.128755	6.794900
Syria	Pound	0.020123	0.023810	1.256500
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024427	0.028902	1.525300
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000530	0.000627	0.033100

Neda bucks Senate's debt-cap proposal

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority does not totally embrace the idea of putting a cap on the country's debt as some legislators in the Senate propose to help ease the country's budget deficit problem.

In a position paper presented to the Senate last Monday, the Neda rejected one of the proposals of Senate Bill 1284, which is Sen. Sergio Osmeña III's version of the debt cap bill, that seeks to limit the pubic debt-to-GNP (gross national product) ratio to 5 percent.

The Neda said the 5-percent limit was "not feasible" since the end-2001 ratio was already way above the proposed ceiling at 121 percent.

"If applied in the short run, it (SB 1284) will require drastic increases in the tax effort and/or deep cuts in government expenditures in order to retire existing debts, including medium- and long-term debt papers. Such a scheme could bring severe strain on economic growth," the Neda said.

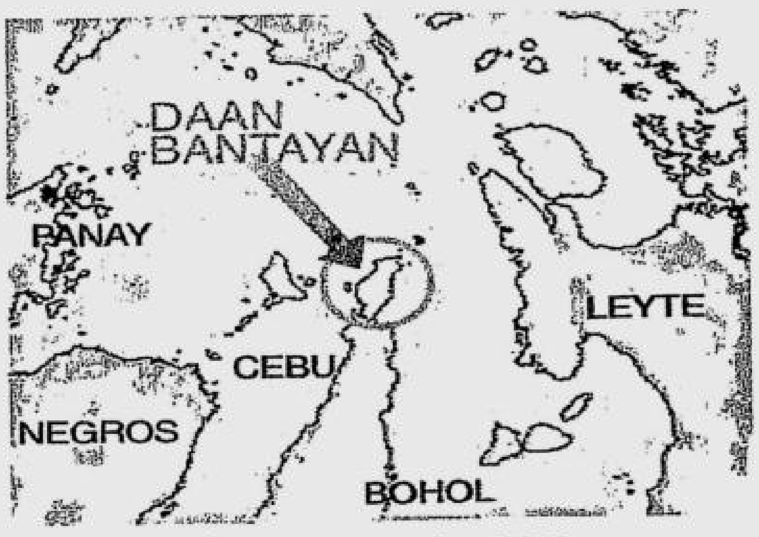
Economic Planning Secrtary Romulo Neri added that putting a cap on debt could only raise the risk perception of Philippine debt papers. He said one provision in the debt cap bill, which requires that borrowings should first secure congressional approval, could force creditors to add risk premium to the country's debt papers, and therefore make borrowings more expensive.

"My feeling is that it (the debt cap bill) is an indirect way of solving the financial coordination problem between the executive and the legislative. Ideally the legislature should come out with the necessary tax measures to help us solve our deficit," said Neri, who is also director general of the Neda.

The country's chief economic manager said it was better if the government directly addressed the deficit problem by coming up with new tax measures, such as one that would solve the deterioration of the GDP (gross domestic product) ratio of some specific taxes.

He said some taxes, like that on fuel and gasoline, and alcoholic drinks and cigarettes, have had their GDP ratio deteriorated from a high of 2.4 percent to 1.4 to 1.2 percent.

Neri said he would prefer that tax measures addressing leakage be established as a means of solving the deficit rather than putting a cap on the country's debt.



Oil exploration in RP resumes with Cebu drilling

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy yesterday announced that Forum Exploration Corp. has started drilling the first of three exploratory wells under Service Contract No. 40, which covers the northern half of Cebu and part of the Visayan Sea to the west.

The DOE noted that this was the first drilling activity for the year amid efforts of the department to reorganize its petroleum development program aimed at attracting local and foreign investors.

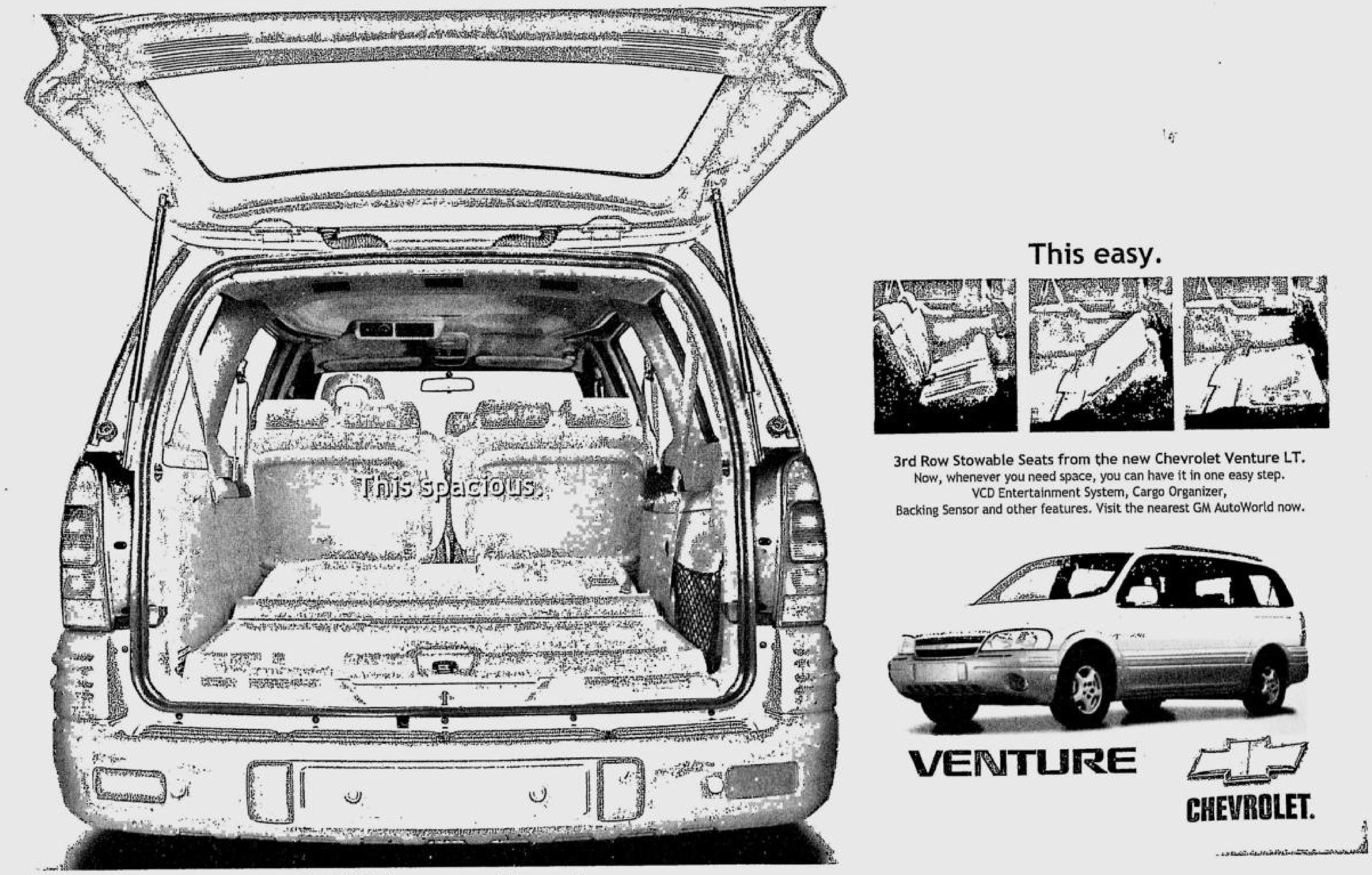
Through the first well called Forum 1-X, Forum Exploration wants to confirm whether the petroleum reserves of the so-called Maya Prospect is of commercial volume.

First discovered in 1961 by Mobil and American Asiatic Oil Co., the Maya Prospect produced about 540 barrels of oil during eight days of well testing.

Meantime, private sector data showed that subsequent wells drilled in the 1960s and 1970s also flowed oil during tests, although production at commercial levels was never achieved.

Forum1-X is located in Baran-

OIL/ B5



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The Hoopla that is biotechnology

MINDANAO ONE

Joji Ilagan-Bian

A LOT of hype has been going around about biotechnology, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and the Bt (bacillus thuringiensis) corn. In simpler terms, biotechnology is the use of living organisms to produce products useful to man.

Modern biotechnology attempts to make the living organisms produce a specific product, in a predictable and controllable way. Vinegar, soy sauce and our favorite "patis" (fish sauce) are products of biotechnology, as well as beer, wine, cheese, pandesal and nata de coco. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) or Genetically Modified (GM) crops are plants with particular genes inserted into them to improve their characteristics in a very specific way, as compared to their conventional counterparts. Quite frankly, we have been using products of biotechnology for a long time.

With the influx of negative reviews concerning the Bt corn we cannot help but take a look at its benefits to small traders and farmers, particularly those in Mindanao. Majority of the farmers who witnessed the Bt corn trials wanted to adopt the corn for several reasons, some of which are: cost reduction in pest management, yield increases, improved risk management and insurance against pests, reduced production costs (chemical, labor, etc.), management time saving, reduction in equipment outlays associated with no-tillage production systems and land use efficiency gains from improved plant spacing.

After observing a trial planting of Bt corn in General Santos City and Bukidnon, farmers realized that Bt corn would save their crops from the dreadful corn borer, which usually reduces their harvest by as much as 30-80 percent. Besides, corn borer damage is associated with aflatoxin (the potent cancer-causing substance) in corn grains.

Following the conduct of the appropriate tests, the government has drafted the necessary guidelines and regulations to create precise and accurate measures on bio-safety. These are embodied in the recently issued DA Administrative Order No. 8, which regulates the importation, use and propagation of plants and plant products derived from the use of modern biotechnology.

For each horror story on the possible harm GMOs may wreak upon our health and the environment, there is an equally persuasive opinion from an opposing institution of similar repute.

The Mindanao Business Council (MBC) prefers to look at the facts rather than speculation. Incidentally, this was why we supported the multi-locational testing of Bt corn in the 10th Mindanao Business Conference last September 2001, as this was the means to gather sufficient data on the commodity for a balanced and well-informed decision.

Achieving food security and poverty alleviation are also facts, and are among the priorities of Mindanao in these conflict-ridden times. Fostering the development and growth of the agriculture sector through the application of modern technology will make a significant contribution in addressing poverty, and shall greatly influence our island's economic growth.

The full commercialization of Bt corn in Mindanao will also have ancillary advantages. For one thing, it will help our government be more prepared and capable of regulating other GMO products that might come knocking on our door in the near future. Also, full commercialization will prevent any monopoly that might seek to control the product, as other suppliers will have the opportunity to distribute Bt corn here.

Our diminishing productivity in the corn industry and competition from cheaper imports pose huge challenges for our government—how to provide not only basic needs for food and feed for animals, but also ensure the livelihood and sustainability of our farmers. If we are to meet these challenges, we will have to look at biotechnology as an option.

(Ms. Bian is the chair of the Mindanao Business Council and the acting chair of the East Asean Business Council)

Tariff shield on float, clear glass sought

By Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr.

ASAHI Glass Co. Ltd. of Japan has expanded the list of products that it wants the government to shield against cheap imports to include clear and tinted float glass goods.

In its petition for safeguard measures, Asahi Glass said that float glass imports from China, Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Korea and India were undercutting its products by as much as 47 percent from 1998 to August 2002. Asahi glass said that sales and profits from its float glass imports had been shrinking due to the flooding of cheap competing products.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said that initial investigations showed that there was reasonable ground to start a formal inquiry on Asahi Glass' proposal to impose extra duty on float glass imports.

Float glass is used for exterior and interior window and glass opening, curtain walls, showcase windows, furniture applications, interior room partitions, basic glass for mirrors, safety glass, laminated glass and tempered glass.

Last week, Asahi requested the government for safeguard measures against figured glass and glass mirror imports.

Asahi reported that its share of the domestic market for figured glass and glass mirror have been shrinking over the last 6 years 1997 which has led to drop in its production capacity from 768,000 cases in 1997 to 434,000 in 2002.

Under the country's safeguard measures, petitioners must prove that their businesses have incurred losses and that this was directly the result of unfair competition posed by imports.

Figured glass products—used for windows, partitions, screens, doors and fluorescent fixtures—come from China, Thailand, and South Africa. Glass mirrors—used for wardrobe doors, bathroom furniture, projection screens, display cases, decorative wall fixtures, and ceiling and pillar cases—come from China, Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand, and Korea.

Projects for coco farmers pushing through, says PCA

By Christine A. Gaylican

UNITED Coconut Planters Bank-Coconut Industry Investment Fund will proceed with the liquidation of P700 million worth of coconut levy funds for micro financing and other livelihood projects in the countryside.

Because the Philippine Coconut Authority's hands are tied by a pending case with the Sandiganbayan, UCPB will take the lead in using P700 million out of the P130 billion in coconut levy fund to bankroll projects for coconut farmers.

"Because there's a legal impediment and the fund ownership is still in question, the government can't directly make use of the coconut levy fund, we will have to make sure that UCPB will serve as the administrator of the P700 million earmarked for those projects," PCA Administrator Danilo Coronacion said in an interview Friday.

Coronacion noted that after some refinements in the program, livelihood and micro financing projects should be onstream by the third quarter.

He added that the mechanism for the direct copra marketing scheme, another project in the pipeline, was also being fine-tuned in time for the peak harvest in July to September.

This will be the first time after almost 30 years, since the collection of the coconut levy started, that farmers will have a real chance to benefit from their investments, said Coronacion.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

LABOR ADVISORY
ON RULES GOVERNING BOOK VI OF THE LABOR CODE

TO : ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : EFFECT OF DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 40-03 ON THE RULES IMPLEMENTING BOOK VI OF THE LABOR CODE

On 17 February 2003, this Office issued Department Order No. 40-03, the amendatory rules pertaining to Book V of the Labor Code. After announcement of its adoption in newspapers of general circulation, D.O. 40-03 took effect on 16 March 2003.

Article II, DO 40-03 states that "(a)ll other rules, regulations, issuances, circulars and administrative orders inconsistent herewith are hereby superseded." Hence, D.O. 40-03 superseded Department Order No. 9, series of 1997, insofar as the latter issuance amended the rules implementing Book V (Labor Relations) of the Labor Code.

It must be emphasized, however, that D.O. 40-03 did not supersede D.O. 9 insofar as it covered the rules implementing Book VI (Termination of Employment) of the Labor Code. Hence, Rule XXIII of D.O. 9 on Termination of Employment continues to have legal force and effect.

Rule XXIII of D.O. 9 reads as follows:

"**Section 1. Security of tenure.** (a) In cases of regular employment, the employer shall not terminate the services of an employee except for just or authorized causes as provided by law, and subject to the requirements of due process.

"(b) the foregoing shall also apply in cases of probationary employment, provided, however, that in such cases, termination of employment; due to failure of the employee to qualify in accordance with the standard of employer made known to the former at the time of engagement may also be a ground for termination of employment.

"(c) In case of project employment or employment covered by legitimate contracting or subcontracting arrangements, no employee shall be dismissed prior to the completion of the project or phase thereof for which the employee was engaged, or prior to the expiration of the contract between the principal and contractor unless the dismissal is for just or authorized cause subject to the requirements of due process or prior notice, or is brought about by the completion of the phase of the project or contract for which the employee was engaged.

"**Section 2. Standards of due process; requirements of notice.** — In all cases of termination of employment, the following standards of due process shall be substantially observed.

"I. For termination of employment based on just causes as defined in Article 282 of the Code:

(a) A written notice served on the employee specifying the ground or grounds for termination, and giving to said employee reasonable opportunity within which to explain his side,

(b) A hearing or conference during which the employee concerned, with the assistance of counsel if the employee so desires, is given opportunity to respond to the charge, present his evidence or rebut the evidence presented against him; and

(c) A written notice of termination served on the employee indicating that upon due consideration of all circumstances, grounds have been established to justify his termination.

"In case of termination, the foregoing notices shall be served on the employee's last known address.

"II. For termination of employment based on authorized causes defined in Article 283 of the Code, the requirements of due process shall be deemed complied with upon service of a written notice to the employee and the appropriate Regional Office of the Department at least thirty days before the effectivity of the termination, specifying the ground or grounds for termination.

"III. If the termination is brought about by the completion of the contract or phase thereof, no prior notice is required. If the termination is brought about by the failure of an employee to meet the standards of the employer in case of probationary employment, it shall be sufficient that a written notice is served the employee within a reasonable time from the effective date of termination.

"**Section 3. Right to contest dismissal.** — Any decision taken by the employer shall be without prejudice to the right of the worker to contest the validity or legality of his dismissal by filing a complaint with the Regional Branch of Commission.

"**Section 4. Period to decide.** — Cases involving the dismissal of a worker shall be decided by the Labor Arbiter within twenty (20) working days from the date of submission of such cases for decision.

"**Section 5. Reinstatement pending hearing.** — The Secretary may suspend the effects of the termination pending resolution of the case in the event of a prima facie finding that the termination may cause a serious labor dispute or is in implementation of a mass lay-off

"**Section 6. Certification of employment.** — A dismissed worker shall be entitled to receive, on request, a certificate from the employer specifying the dates of his engagement and termination of his employment and the type or types of work on which he is employed.

"**Section 7. Report of dismissal.** — The employer shall submit a monthly report to the Regional Office having jurisdiction over the place of work all dismissals effected by it during the month, specifying therein the names of the dismissed workers, the reasons for their dismissal, the dates of commencement and termination of employment, the positions last held by them and such other information as may be required by the Department for policy guidance and statistical purposes.

"**Section 8. Preventive suspension.** — The employer may place the worker concerned under preventive suspension if his continued employment poses a serious and imminent threat to the life or property of the employer or of his co-workers.

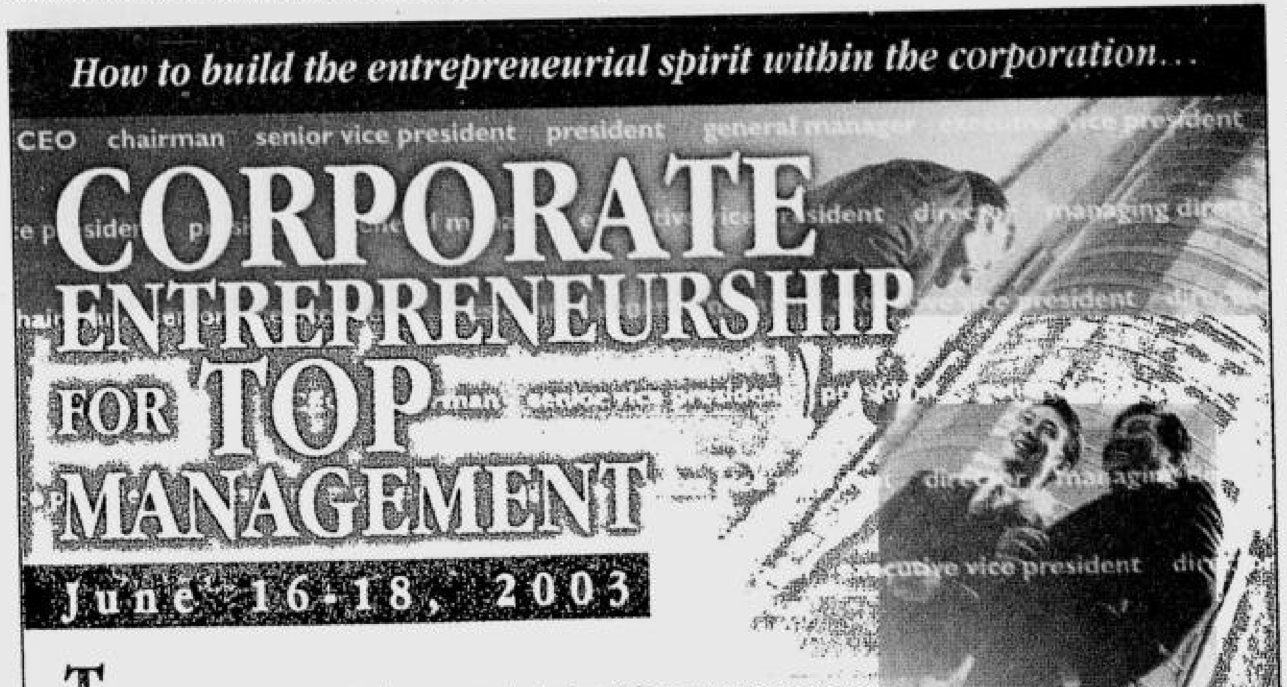
"**Section 9. Period of suspension.** — No preventive suspension shall last longer than thirty (30) days. The employer shall thereafter reinstate the worker in his former or in a substantially equivalent position or the employer may extend the period of suspension provided that during the period of extension, he pays the wages and other benefits due to the worker. In such case, the worker shall not be bound to reimburse the amount paid to him during the extension if the employer decides, after completion of the hearing, to dismiss the worker."

Please be guided accordingly.

Manila, Philippines. May 20, 2003.

(Sgd.) PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Secretary

(PDI–May 28, 2003)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Cha-cha at Polo Club

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE MANILA Polo Club counts the country's financial and social elite as members, but governing the A-list club is proving to be as intractable as the chattering country and the carbuncular Congress.

The club's town hall meeting on Monday, called to approve the increase in monthly dues by P500 to P1,700/month, was cancelled for lack of warm bodies and special proxies.

Imagine, directors Roberto Romulo and Jose Cuisia Jr. rushing back from the US state visit after closing multibillion-peso deals to attend the Monday meeting only to be rebuffed in their efforts to collect P500/month more from the country's multimillionaires and a sprinkling of billionaires.

Cuisia even contracted bad cough during the nearly 14-hour JFK-Narita flight, possibly passed on by a Chinoy-looking passenger across his front-row aisle seat.

First proposed by the previous board, the Polo Club, just like the Philippines, has been operating at a net loss since 1999, covering the deficit with special assessments, retrenchments, and belt-tightening schemes.

Now club president Jesus Tambunting, he of the pawnshop fame, says the club would post around P22 million in operating loss next fiscal year from almost P19 million this year if the club fails to approve the revenue-raising measure.

The problem is, just like the Philippines, the Polo Club is hamstrung by its constitution, needing a constitutional amendment just to be able to raise the monthly dues.

To get out of the quorum trap, the Tambunting board is now thinking of soliciting special powers of attorney from the club's 2,165 proprietary members so that it could amend the constitutional provision on membership assessments and finally raise the funds.

Post-prandial publicity

THE RARE White House state dinner tendered last week by President Bush to visiting President Macapagal-Arroyo is still generating post-event publicity windfall for GMA and the Philippines.

The popular People magazine featured in this week's issue a two-page photo spread on the May 19 dinner.

"An Affair of State/An army of chefs, butlers and florists makes sure that a White House state dinner in honor of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo goes off without a hitch," said the People blurb.

"With just 130 guests, compared to the 700 at some Clinton dinners, the Bushes opted for a more intimate evening," People continued. Even a Midwest paper, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, carried a brief report on the "red carpet" treatment accorded to the Philippine visitors.

The dinner guest list included North-

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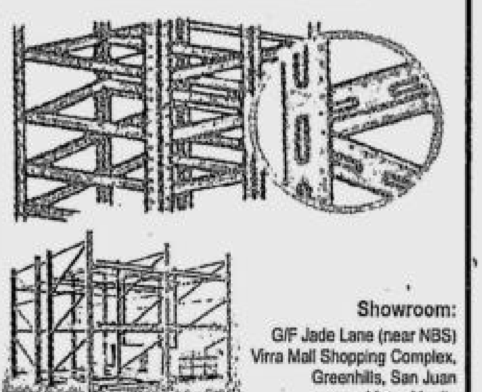

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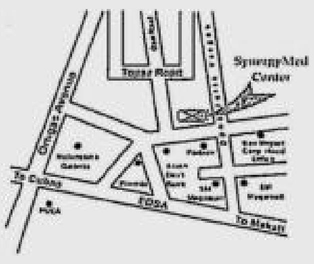

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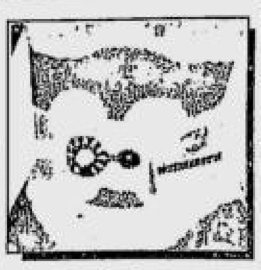

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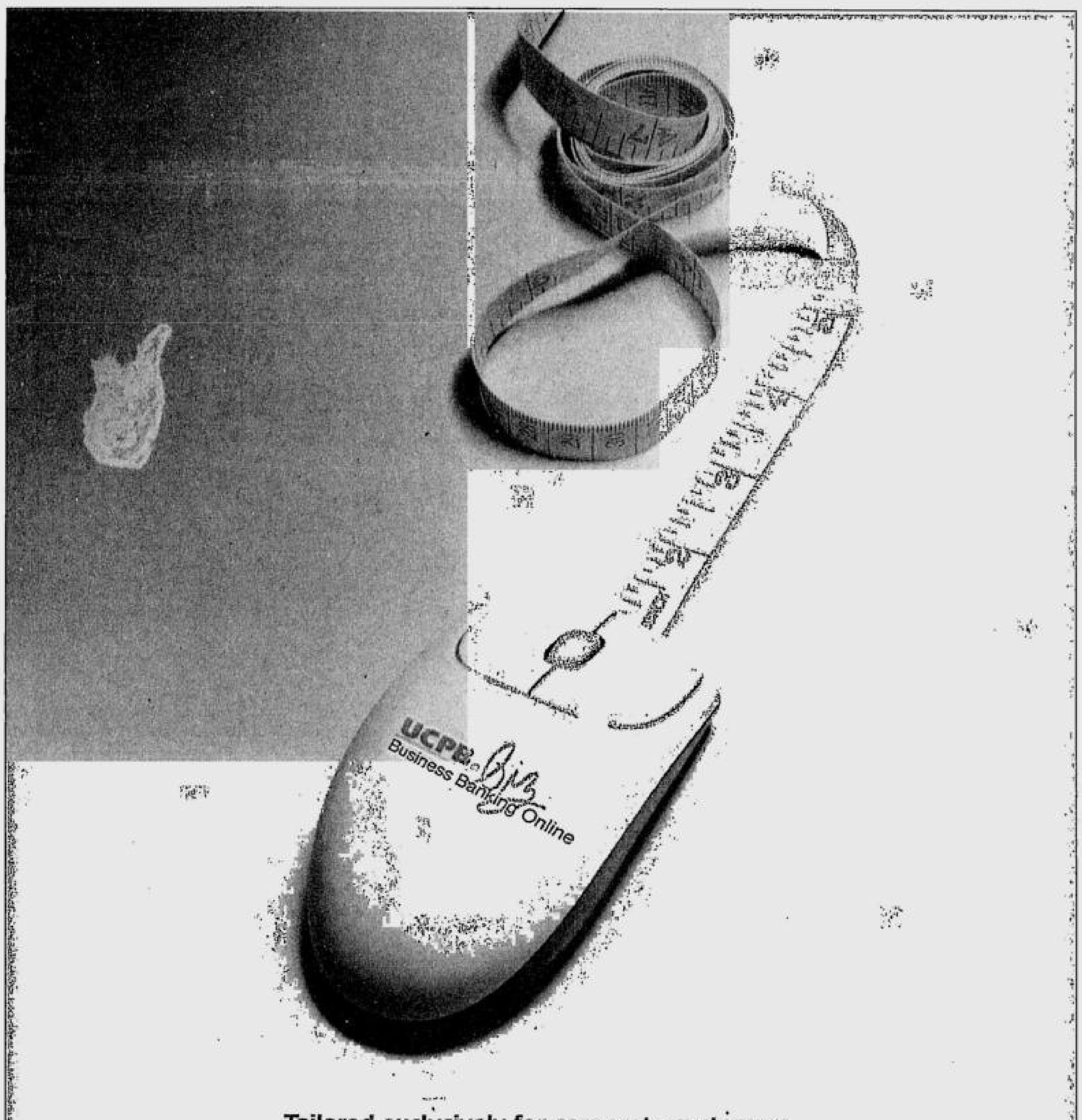

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PEOPLE at WORK

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
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‘What do I do with a degree I don’t like?’

By Emily Abrera

DEAR Ma’am Emily,

First of all, let me tell you how wonderful it was to read the article about you in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. I was so inspired by what you went through that I’m hoping you can be my career mentor. My problem is that I have no career. I graduated from a college and a course I didn’t really liked or understood. I was not really forced into it but it sort of fell into my lap since my father died during those times.

It’s been a year now since I graduated and I still don’t have a job. I got job offers but they were mostly for call centers. I don’t think that that is really what I want. This time, I don’t want situations to take control of my life but to lead it myself. The thing is, my course limits me to the jobs I can apply for. As I said before, I didn’t really understand my course so you can imagine how I feel about working in relation to it.

Can you suggest something for me so I will know what field I really want to be in? Are there courses I can take? I can see myself relating to people really well and not just being stuck in a chair staring into a computer eight hours a day. I wish you can answer me because I see you as a survivor. If you can be in the job of your dreams even if you didn’t have your degree, I think that I can be in mine too, even if I have the wrong degree.

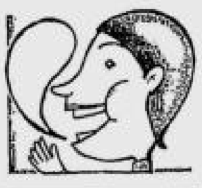
Thank you very much and more power.

GRP

Thank you for your letter. I found myself rather drawn to the curious situation you are in: you managed to complete your studies for a course you didn’t really like, in a school not of your choosing. And you now have a degree that you consider a liability, rather than an asset, in pursuing the kind of career you really want. I gather from what you have shared that you’re not really sure about the kind of “career” you’d like to embark on either.

Well then, let me see if I can help you sort out your problem.

ASK YOUR CEO



Ideal job

Although you didn’t mention what course you took, maybe it has something to do with computers, or it entails working on one, mostly, since that is what you have compared to a more ideal job that might allow you to relate to people more directly. It sounds like you have formed a deep dislike for the course you took! While you say you don’t truly “understand” that field, you can’t have been so bad at it, because after all, you passed the subjects and earned a degree! But you’re so negatively inclined towards it that it’s become a burden instead of an accomplishment.

Change your attitude

So maybe the first thing you should work on is changing your attitude about the course you took. (Maybe you associate it with a sad time in your life, which you’d rather not be reminded of. If so, that’s ok. You’re only human. But don’t let it become a hindrance to moving forward.) Simply accept it as a bonus on your resume, if you like. Tuck it into your background because believe me, no one will ever take it against you that you have a degree in something. People are allowed to change their minds about the direction they’d like to take in life.

Once you have put your degree mentally behind you, you are now open to seek opportunities for employment. Do I take it that you are not in dire need of a job? If you’ve received offers from call centers but rejected them because they’re not really what you want, then you have the luxury of looking for a position that’s more in keeping with your desire to deal with people directly. That could mean a job in sales, marketing, account servicing, even insurance. You can scan the weekend papers for job openings and apply.

Mind you, GRP, it’s not easy… this looking-for-a-job business. You have to be really patient and thorough. Make sure you organize your resume properly and put together a persuasive letter of introduction for yourself. On paper is the first time a prospective employer will meet you, and you want him or her to be impressed by your sincerity, your ability and your desire to get the job. Draft you letter and go over it a number of times to ensure there are no grammatical flaws, and that it’s a unique piece of communication from other letters the company may receive. You have a better chance of standing out and being remembered if you’re different from the rest, but you should be creative in a sincere way.

CEO mentor Abrera

Different route

Will you let me get a little philosophical here? You know, GRP, not everyone is always so sure about “what they want to be when they grow up.” In fact, many young people today graduate from college, then, find themselves in jobs that are quite remote from the field they specialized in. Some of them eventually find their way to the sort of work they wanted to do from the start. Others decide they can be happy in an alternative career. Very few people are so blessed as to land the “ideal job” right off the bat the first time. Often, we grow to love the work we do; we discover it and ourselves in it. We make labor meaningful by the care and respect we invest in it over time.

Desired destination

You see, our paths are not always straight roads. Sometimes, they meander a bit before we get to our desired destination. But that doesn’t mean we could have gotten there sooner. Sometimes we are meant to pass a different route because there are things we have yet to learn. We once had a very bright account executive, who had taken up marine biology. And another who had taken up two years of architecture before she dropped out and looked for a job. She eventually ended up in human resource management, then left to enroll in fine arts. I always thought they were good at what they did because of the unusual background they had.

You are lucky in that today, all these odd combinations make for more interesting employees, especially for service companies. If on the other hand, you have the means to study some more, I would suggest that you take up a course or even just some subjects in the social sciences; communication, anthropology, or psychology. Consider also the humanities, if you are inclined towards culture and the arts.

However, if you want to get cracking, and you need to start earning, why not consider seeing what you might learn about yourself and others in a call center job? Think of it as experience. One whole year of doing nothing can get you in a real rut. I am inclined to suggest that even a small job will at least get you into the workforce, so you can practice for the career you were meant for.

I hope somehow I have been of help to you, GRP. Here’s wishing you luck!

CEO CAREER MENTORS. Abrera, Teves, Pangilinan, Mamon, Confesor, Quintos, Gozon and Santiago

‘Ask your CEO’ column launched today

STARTING today, eight topnotch chief executive officers or CEOs will take turns writing a career advice column named “Ask Your CEO.” Through this column, they will share with the readers their experiences and expertise in working and thriving in the work world. This is the first column of its kind in the country.

The eight CEOs who accepted People at Work’s invitation to write the column are Emily Abrera, chair of McCann Erikson, Gary Teves, president of Land Bank of the Philippines, Nieves Confesor, dean of the Asian Institute of Management, Jerry Santiago, president of Kraft Foods Philippines, lawyer Felipe Gozon, chair and president of GMA Network, Inc., Cynthia Mamon, president of Sun Microsystems, Joaquin Quintos IV, president of IBM Philippines, and Manuel Pangilinan, president of PLDT.

Readers who would like to get their advice can email peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph or send a letter via postal mail to the People at Work Editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague St., Makati City.

Desire to achieve is the heart of success for lawyer turned broadcast CEO

By Regina Galang Reyes

ACHIEVEMENT is Atty. Felipe Lapus Gozon’s other name. “I want to succeed in anything I do. I am driven by success, challenge,” he explains. And judging from the list of his achievements, he already has succeeded in many endeavors and ready to tackle the challenges as Chair, President and CEO of GMA Network, Inc.

Apparently, this achiever started garnering successes early in life. Graduating valedictorian in elementary and placing third in the honor list in high school, he ranked number 10 in his graduating class in Bachelor of Laws at the University of the Philippines and 13th in the 1962 bar examinations. He also completed his Master of Laws from Yale University Law School. His 38-year law practice as managing partner of Belo Gozon Parel Asuncion & Lucila Law Office has earned for him and his law firm a string of successes in the legal field.

These achievements only fueled his motivation to succeed. He notes, “It is when you accomplish what you set out to do and you succeed, that in itself is the gratification that keeps you going. If you are winning cases, that motivates you. If you keep increasing ratings and revenues, that motivates you.”

Thus, it is not surprising that he defines success as being able “to accomplish what you seek out to do.”

Big goals

Early on in his career, it was clear to him that he wanted to achieve bigger things in life. “If you put goals shorter that what should be, then you are short-changing yourself,” he quips.

At an early age, he already knew what he wanted to accomplish—that is, to be a lawyer someday. He narrates, “By nature, even when I was in high school, I was already argumentative. My teachers told me I had a very inquisitive mind. And I don’t just accept what they tell me, I argue. Maybe that made me decide to take up law. I don’t think I made a mistake, in hindsight.”

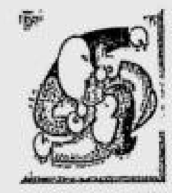
Atty. Gozon, however, always knew he would practice in the Philippines. Before he studied in Yale, he worked as assistant attorney at Courdert Bros. in 1964 in New York City. He could have rejoined the firm after graduation but did not. “My thinking was to practice in the Philippines, not in the US.” This decision led to the creation of his law firm.

Values for success

Atty. Gozon gives advice to law students, graduates and upcoming lawyers, “I have two children, the first one already has a masters degree from Harvard, was valedictorian in UP. The second one is 4th year in UP and will take the bar next year. I told them there is no substitute for hard work in law. You really have to study and be dedicated. Anything less than that will not make you a superior lawyer. So you have to love the job.” He says that while this advice may be applicable to all young people starting in their careers, it is more applicable to those who want to succeed in law. He adds, “There is no short cut.”

Atty. Gozon has a prescription too for Filipinos who would like to succeed in the global market, “Efficiency, time consciousness, diligence. We are already intelligent but we lack efficiency. We need to develop competence, dedication. The indolence of the Filipinos is the biggest disadvantage we have. But I think we have good paradigms-the *pakikisama*, giving value to the family—I think these are all good. If we can combine these with what the Westerners have, then we can be the best in the whole world.”

CAREER TALES



He says he got his values from his parents. His father, Benjamin Mendoza Gozon, a lawyer and former Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources during the presidency of Diosdado Macapagal, and his mother, Carolina Lapus Gozon, a businesswoman and housewife, were very big influences in his life. He says, “They gave me the life and love that everybody needs to get along in this world. I learned from the way they conducted their lives. That is where I learned integrity, honesty, diligence, hard work and the good things.”

Tackling the GMA challenge

Atty. Gozon brings these values to GMA Network Inc. After the retirement of its longtime president and brother-in-law Menardo R. Jimenez in October 2000, Atty. Gozon took over the reins of this multi-awarded network, devoting most of his time to its operations. He says the law firm already has good lawyers and has institutionalized its systems and that the broadcast company needs his attention more than his law firm.

While GMA Network has gotten the lead over its major competitor in many programs at various times, Atty. Gozon wants to bat for a consistent performance, that is, being number one in ratings and revenues over a sustained period of time. Atty. Gozon says of this challenge, “I want to be remembered as somebody who succeeded in turning around GMA. This is my last hurrah, my last challenge.”

Towards this end, he has hit the ground running. Atty. Gozon says, “When I took over, I immediately changed their outlook. I told them I want ratings and revenues number one. And I am glad that everybody cooperated.”

He has also taken a different approach towards achieving this goal. “We have instituted our seven core values and that is the basis from which we will build the success of the company. Bottomline: Competence, efficiency and integrity. Result: superior quality TV programs that will uplift the viewers and make them better. But we are not going to do anything and everything to achieve that objective.” He says that these values will bring GMA Network to the top. He quips, “Like the ten commandments that will bring you to heaven.”

Atty. Gozon outlines his program, “We are changing the culture of our people constantly. Every month, we have an assembly where we talk about the values for the month. Anywhere you go in our company now, you will see the values and our mission, our vision. Our objective internally is to make it ingrained a matter of habit. Externally, we want that to be shown by the programs we produce. If the programs you produce are not quality and superior, that is not number one in our terms of reference.”

While Atty. Gozon modestly says that though they have not yet achieved these objectives, they are well on their way to doing so, emphasizing “We are at the threshold.”

With such an achievement-driven CEO at the helm of operations, garnering the top prize in the highly competitive broadcast industry may just be a heartbeat away.

(Do you want to learn from Atty. Gozon’s experiences? You can send your letters requesting for career advice to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph. *He will answer your letters in the “Ask Your CEO” column which eight topnotch CEOs will take turns writing. You can also catch him ‘live’ in tomorrow’s People at Work Live! Seminar on Developing the Global Pinoy. You may get your tickets starting 2 p.m. from the Registration Table at the Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, H.V. de la Costa. Ave. cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City. Call 897-8808 local 554 for more information.)*

GOZON, chair, president and CEO of GMA Network, Inc.

PHOTO BY BETOY JOHNSON

PEOPLE at WORK

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Subsection Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

‘What do I do with a degree I don’t like?’

By Emily Abrera

DEAR Ma’am Emily,

First of all, let me tell you how wonderful it was to read the article about you in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. I was so inspired by what you went through that I’m hoping you can be my career mentor. My problem is that I have no career. I graduated from a college and a course I didn’t really liked or understood. I was not really forced into it but it sort of fell into my lap since my father died during those times.

It’s been a year now since I graduated and I still don’t have a job. I got job offers but they were mostly for call centers. I don’t think that that is really what I want. This time, I don’t want situations to take control of my life but to lead it myself. The thing is, my course limits me to the jobs I can apply for. As I said before, I didn’t really understand my course so you can imagine how I feel about working in relation to it.

Can you suggest something for me so I will know what field I really want to be in? Are there courses I can take? I can see myself relating to people really well and not just being stuck in a chair staring into a computer eight hours a day. I wish you can answer me because I see you as a survivor. If you can be in the job of your dreams even if you didn’t have your degree, I think that I can be in mine too, even if I have the wrong degree.

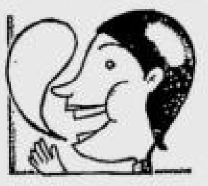
Thank you very much and more power.

GRP

Thank you for your letter. I found myself rather drawn to the curious situation you are in: you managed to complete your studies for a course you didn’t really like, in a school not of your choosing. And you now have a degree that you consider a liability, rather than an asset, in pursuing the kind of career you really want. I gather from what you have shared that you’re not really sure about the kind of “career” you’d like to embark on either.

Well then, let me see if I can help you sort out your problem.

ASK YOUR CEO



Ideal job

Although you didn’t mention what course you took, maybe it has something to do with computers, or it entails working on one, mostly, since that is what you have compared to a more ideal job that might allow you to relate to people more directly. It sounds like you have formed a deep dislike for the course you took! While you say you don’t truly “understand” that field, you can’t have been so bad at it, because after all, you passed the subjects and earned a degree! But you’re so negatively inclined towards it that it’s become a burden instead of an accomplishment.

Change your attitude

So maybe the first thing you should work on is changing your attitude about the course you took. (Maybe you associate it with a sad time in your life, which you’d rather not be reminded of. If so, that’s ok. You’re only human. But don’t let it become a hindrance to moving forward.) Simply accept it as a bonus on your resume, if you like. Tuck it into your background because believe me, no one will ever take it against you that you have a degree in something. People are allowed to change their minds about the direction they’d like to take in life.

Once you have put your degree mentally behind you, you are now open to seek opportunities for employment. Do I take it that you are not in dire need of a job? If you’ve received offers from call centers but rejected them because they’re not really what you want, then you have the luxury of looking for a position that’s more in keeping with your desire to deal with people directly. That could mean a job in sales, marketing, account servicing, even insurance. You can scan the weekend papers for job openings and apply.

Mind you, GRP, it’s not easy… this looking-for-a-job business. You have to be really patient and thorough. Make sure you organize your resume properly and put together a persuasive letter of introduction for yourself. On paper is the first time a prospective employer will meet you, and you want him or her to be impressed by your sincerity, your ability and your desire to get the job. Draft you letter and go over it a number of times to ensure there are no grammatical flaws, and that it’s a unique piece of communication from other letters the company may receive. You have a better chance of standing out and being remembered if you’re different from the rest, but you should be creative in a sincere way.

CEO mentor Abrera

Different route

Will you let me get a little philosophical here? You know, GRP, not everyone is always so sure about “what they want to be when they grow up.” In fact, many young people today graduate from college, then, find themselves in jobs that are quite remote from the field they specialized in. Some of them eventually find their way to the sort of work they wanted to do from the start. Others decide they can be happy in an alternative career. Very few people are so blessed as to land the “ideal job” right off the bat the first time. Often, we grow to love the work we do; we discover it and ourselves in it. We make labor meaningful by the care and respect we invest in it over time.

Desired destination

You see, our paths are not always straight roads. Sometimes, they meander a bit before we get to our desired destination. But that doesn’t mean we could have gotten there sooner. Sometimes we are meant to pass a different route because there are things we have yet to learn. We once had a very bright account executive, who had taken up marine biology. And another who had taken up two years of architecture before she dropped out and looked for a job. She eventually ended up in human resource management, then left to enroll in fine arts. I always thought they were good at what they did because of the unusual background they had.

You are lucky in that today, all these odd combinations make for more interesting employees, especially for service companies. If on the other hand, you have the means to study some more, I would suggest that you take up a course or even just some subjects in the social sciences; communication, anthropology, or psychology. Consider also the humanities, if you are inclined towards culture and the arts.

However, if you want to get cracking, and you need to start earning, why not consider seeing what you might learn about yourself and others in a call center job? Think of it as experience. One whole year of doing nothing can get you in a real rut. I am inclined to suggest that even a small job will at least get you into the workforce, so you can practice for the career you were meant for.

I hope somehow I have been of help to you, GRP. Here’s wishing you luck!

CEO CAREER MENTORS. Abrera, Teves, Pangilinan, Mamon, Confesor, Quintos, Gozon and Santiago

‘Ask your CEO’ column launched today

STARTING today, eight topnotch chief executive officers or CEOs will take turns writing a career advice column named “Ask Your CEO.” Through this column, they will share with the readers their experiences and expertise in working and thriving in the work world. This is the first column of its kind in the country.

The eight CEOs who accepted People at Work’s invitation to write the column are Emily Abrera, chair of McCann Erikson, Gary Teves, president of Land Bank of the Philippines, Nieves Confesor, dean of the Asian Institute of Management, Jerry Santiago, president of Kraft Foods Philippines, lawyer Felipe Gozon, chair and president of GMA Network, Inc., Cynthia Mamon, president of Sun Microsystems, Joaquin Quintos IV, president of IBM Philippines, and Manuel Pangilinan, president of PLDT.

Readers who would like to get their advice can email peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph or send a letter via postal mail to the People at Work Editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague St., Makati City.

Desire to achieve is the heart of success for lawyer turned broadcast CEO

By Regina Galang Reyes

ACHIEVEMENT is Atty. Felipe Lapus Gozon’s other name. “I want to succeed in anything I do. I am driven by success, challenge,” he explains. And judging from the list of his achievements, he already has succeeded in many endeavors and ready to tackle the challenges as Chair, President and CEO of GMA Network, Inc.

Apparently, this achiever started garnering successes early in life. Graduating valedictorian in elementary and placing third in the honor list in high school, he ranked number 10 in his graduating class in Bachelor of Laws at the University of the Philippines and 13th in the 1962 bar examinations. He also completed his Master of Laws from Yale University Law School. His 38-year law practice as managing partner of Belo Gozon Parel Asuncion & Lucila Law Office has earned for him and his law firm a string of successes in the legal field.

These achievements only fueled his motivation to succeed. He notes, “It is when you accomplish what you set out to do and you succeed, that in itself is the gratification that keeps you going. If you are winning cases, that motivates you. If you keep increasing ratings and revenues, that motivates you.”

Thus, it is not surprising that he defines success as being able “to accomplish what you seek out to do.”

Big goals

Early on in his career, it was clear to him that he wanted to achieve bigger things in life. “If you put goals shorter that what should be, then you are short-changing yourself,” he quips.

At an early age, he already knew what he wanted to accomplish—that is, to be a lawyer someday. He narrates, “By nature, even when I was in high school, I was already argumentative. My teachers told me I had a very inquisitive mind. And I don’t just accept what they tell me, I argue. Maybe that made me decide to take up law. I don’t think I made a mistake, in hindsight.”

Atty. Gozon, however, always knew he would practice in the Philippines. Before he studied in Yale, he worked as assistant attorney at Courdert Bros. in 1964 in New York City. He could have rejoined the firm after graduation but did not. “My thinking was to practice in the Philippines, not in the US.” This decision led to the creation of his law firm.

Values for success

Atty. Gozon gives advice to law students, graduates and upcoming lawyers, “I have two children, the first one already has a masters degree from Harvard, was valedictorian in UP. The second one is 4th year in UP and will take the bar next year. I told them there is no substitute for hard work in law. You really have to study and be dedicated. Anything less than that will not make you a superior lawyer. So you have to love the job.” He says that while this advice may be applicable to all young people starting in their careers, it is more applicable to those who want to succeed in law. He adds, “There is no short cut.”

Atty. Gozon has a prescription too for Filipinos who would like to succeed in the global market, “Efficiency, time consciousness, diligence. We are already intelligent but we lack efficiency. We need to develop competence, dedication. The indolence of the Filipinos is the biggest disadvantage we have. But I think we have good paradigms-the *pakikisama*, giving value to the family—I think these are all good. If we can combine these with what the Westerners have, then we can be the best in the whole world.”

CAREER TALES

He says he got his values from his parents. His father, Benjamin Mendoza Gozon, a lawyer and former Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources during the presidency of Diosdado Macapagal, and his mother, Carolina Lapus Gozon, a businesswoman and housewife, were very big influences in his life. He says, “They gave me the life and love that everybody needs to get along in this world. I learned from the way they conducted their lives. That is where I learned integrity, honesty, diligence, hard work and the good things.”

Tackling the GMA challenge

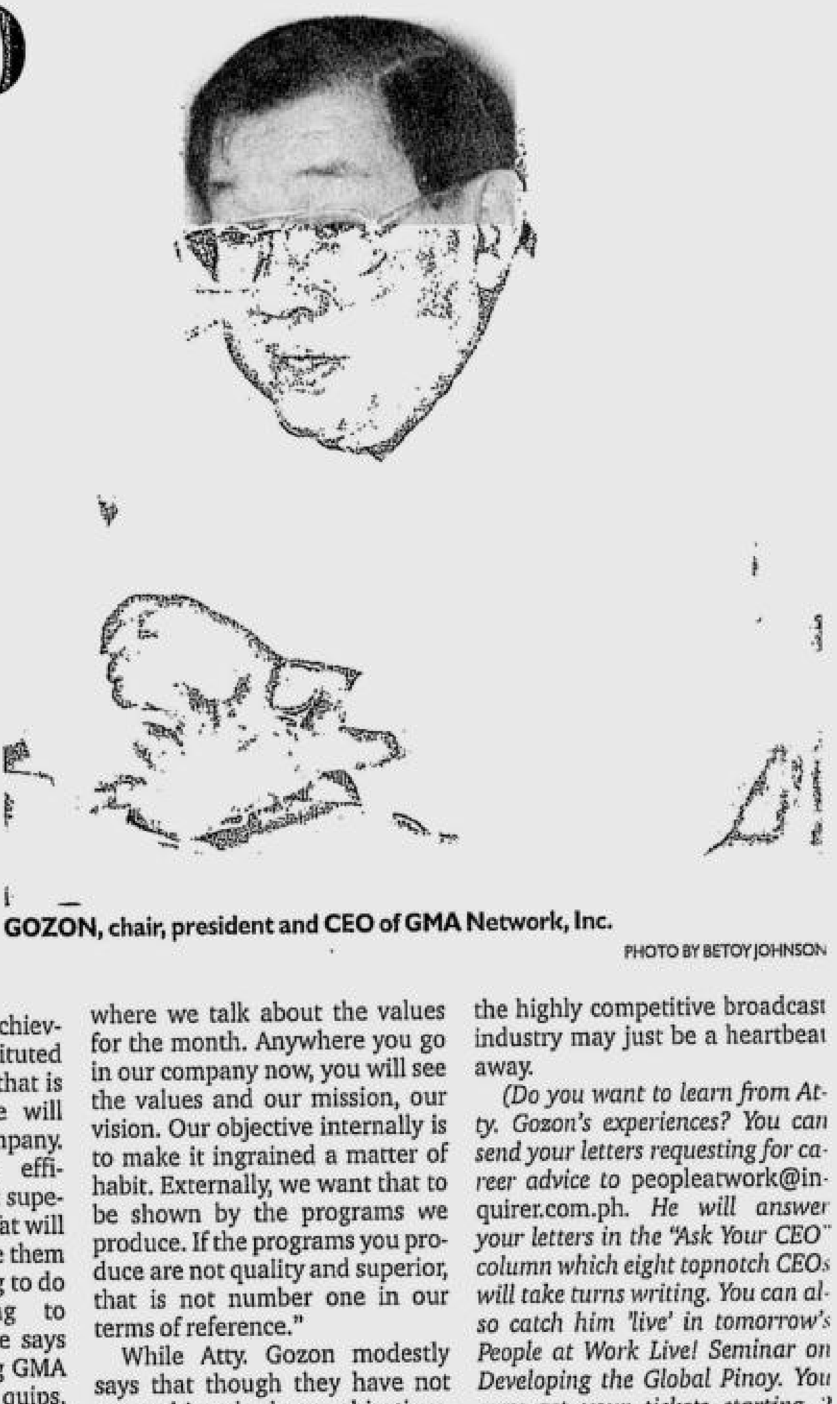
Atty. Gozon brings these values to GMA Network Inc. After the retirement of its longtime president and brother-in-law Menardo R. Jimenez in October 2000, Atty. Gozon took over the reins of this multi-awarded network, devoting most of his time to its operations. He says the law firm already has good lawyers and has institutionalized its systems and that the broadcast company needs his attention more than his law firm.

While GMA Network has gotten the lead over its major competitor in many programs at various times, Atty. Gozon wants to bat for a consistent performance, that is, being number one in ratings and revenues over a sustained period of time. Atty. Gozon says of this challenge, “I want to be remembered as somebody who succeeded in turning around GMA. This is my last hurrah, my last challenge.”

Towards this end, he has hit the ground running. Atty. Gozon says, “When I took over, I immediately changed their outlook. I told them I want ratings and revenues number one. And I am glad that everybody cooperated.”

He has also taken a different approach towards achieving this goal. “We have instituted our seven core values and that is the basis from which we will build the success of the company. Bottomline: Competence, efficiency and integrity. Result: superior quality TV programs that will uplift the viewers and make them better. But we are not going to do anything and everything to achieve that objective.” He says that these values will bring GMA Network to the top. He quips, “Like the ten commandments that will bring you to heaven.”

Atty. Gozon outlines his program, “We are changing the culture of our people constantly. Every month, we have an assembly where we talk about the values for the month. Anywhere you go in our company now, you will see the values and our mission, our vision. Our objective internally is to make it ingrained a matter of habit. Externally, we want that to be shown by the programs we produce. If the programs you produce are not quality and superior, that is not number one in our terms of reference.”



GOZON, chair, president and CEO of GMA Network, Inc.

PHOTO BY BETOY JOHNSON

While Atty. Gozon modestly says that though they have not yet achieved these objectives, they are well on their way to doing so, emphasizing “We are at the threshold.”

With such an achievement-driven CEO at the helm of operations, garnering the top prize in the highly competitive broadcast industry may just be a heartbeat away.

(Do you want to learn from Atty. Gozon’s experiences? You can send your letters requesting for career advice to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph. *He will answer your letters in the “Ask Your CEO” column which eight topnotch CEOs will take turns writing. You can also catch him ‘live’ in tomorrow’s People at Work Live! Seminar on Developing the Global Pinoy. You may get your tickets starting 2 p.m. from the Registration Table at the Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, H.V. de la Costa, Ave. cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City. Call 897-8808 local 554 for more information.)*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, May 27, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	14.75	15	14.75	15	11,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	34	34	34	34?	717,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	21,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25.5	25.5	24.75	25	173,500
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	85	85	85	85	600
Philippine National Bank	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	19,100
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28?	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,600
Security Bank Corp.	10	10	10	10	32,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25?	10,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	880,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1410	1410	1410	1410?	260
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1020	1025	1020	1025?	490
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.75?	12,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.67	.67?	6,830,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	565	570	560	565?	140,910
Ipeople Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	.62?	50,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.041	0.042	0.038	.039?	29,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9?	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	.28?	1,570,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.24	0.24	0.24	.24?	300,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	415	415	412.5	415?	247,000
Ivantage Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	350,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	1,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2?	67,000
Manila Electric Co. B	9	9	8.8	8.8?	461,000
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84?	967,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.91	0.91	91?	800,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	19,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED	PRODU	CTS			
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	.44?	480,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	30,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	300,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46?	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25.5	25.5	25	25?	163,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	15.5	16	15.5	16?	498,200
RFM Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	.68?	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5?	13,400
San Miguel Corp. B	64	64	63.5	63.5?	18,600
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	30,000
Ayala Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	1,723,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	110,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.023	.023?	8,500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	1,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.68	1.68?	135,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	60,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.24	.24?	5,900,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	.18?	170,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	.19?	1,950,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.3	7.4?	108,000
Ionics Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	230,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5?	29,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.68	1.76?	339,000
Pryce Corp.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	277,900
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	.4?	370,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	.31?	30,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.24	.24?	700,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.38	.38?	710,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.85	4.9	4.8	4.85?	6,283,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	.12?	2,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	.15?	350,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.78	.78?	13,120,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	300,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6?	6,540,000
MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	7,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.21	0.21	0.205	.205?	400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	.0038?	12,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	.011?	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	.0024?	5,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	700,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	.28?	40,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000

DISCLOSURES

EIB Realty Developers Inc. announced the appointment of Benjamin Castillo as officer in charge and compliance officer. Kristin Sto. Domingo and Riva Khristine Maala were appointed chief information officers.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Seven Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 30, 3 p.m. at the 4/F, Amorsolo Ballroom, Manila Galleria Suites, Pasig City. Only stockholders as of April 28 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

MACROASIA Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 18 with record date on June 18.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. were Ricardo Romulo, Eduardo Villanueva, John Gokongwei Jr., Johnson Robert Go, James Go, Lance Gokongwei and Per Pedersen.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Banco de Oro Universal Bank were Teresita Sy, Jesus Jacinto Jr., Nestor Tan, Violeta LuYm, Senen Mendiola, Antolin Oreta Sr., Jimmy Tang, Ismael Estella, Josefina Tan and Randolph Sullivan.

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp. declared a cash dividend of P0.05 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of June 15 and will be payable on June 30.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Oil exploration in RP . . .

From page B1

gay Maya, Daanbantayan, Cebu, and will be drilled to a depth of 1,000 feet.

The DOE added that Forum Exploration was also re-assessing the Libertad gas prospect in Bogo town in Cebu.

The company had drilled between 1994 and 1995 five exploratory wells in the area, one of which flowed about 9 million cubic feet of natural gas a day during testing.

In a company report, Canadian firm Tracer Petroleum Corp. said it had completed last April 28 the acquisition of 66 percent of the outstanding shares of Forum Exploration worth $10 million.

"The acquisition is subject only to final Philippine government approval, which (Tracer) expects to receive shortly," said company president Larry Youell.

Tracer cited a detailed assessment by PGS Reservoir Consultants of the United Kingdom, which reported that the net present value of Forum Exploration's current petroleum assets were expected at $51 million.

However, the Alberta-based company said "the optimistic value is close to $500 million."

Forum Exploration is also working to secure a geophysical survey and exploration contract that covers a 1.28 million hectares in Manila Bay and West Central Luzon.

Stocks end lower

From page B1

nomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri saying he expected the economy to have grown as much as 4.6 percent year-on-year.

"We think it will be a lot lower than the government expectations. We're concerned about the impact from SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome)," said Manny Cruz, an analyst at Belson Securities.

Dwindling foreign investor interest and thin liquidity was also encouraging some local players to exit the market, traders said.

PLDT and Globe Telecom, which have been supported by strong first-quarter earnings, led the broad market lower as some players decided to cash in gains.

Other blue chip favorites were also pushed lower on concerns that weaker-than-expected economic growth would have a negative impact on their earnings prospects going forward, Cruz said.

Ayala group stocks were hit with Ayala Land down five centavos at P4.85 and Bank of the Philippine Islands down 50 centavos at P34. Mall developer SM Prime Holdings slid 15 centavos to P4.60. *Reuters*

4 YEARS AHEAD OF TARGET

PNB sees turnaround in 2003 with at least ₱29M in net profit

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE National Bank, once the country's biggest lender, is expecting to generate a net profit of P29 million to as much as P100 million for 2003 after 5 consecutive years of financial hemorrhage.

PNB president Lorenzo Tan told reporters in a briefing after their stockholders' meeting yesterday that the bank could return to profitability this year—four years ahead of target under the rehabilitation blueprint.

The worst-case would be for PNB to still bleed by P400 million this year, but this would still be much better than the losses of P1.95 billion in 2002 and another P4.13 billion in 2001.

Asked which scenario was the bank likely to see, Tan said: "I'm an optimist. What I can say is that we've raised the bar. We're rallying everyone to make money this year."

The main strategy is to live within its means and drive up low-cost deposits while cleaning up its balance sheet through the sale of real and other properties owned and acquired (Ropoa) and addressing problematic loan accounts, the biggest of which are those of National Steel Corp. (P5.6 billion), Victorias Milling Corp. (P800-P900 million), and Bonifacio Land Co. (close to P1 billion).

Tan explained that the bank's emerging recovery ahead of the rehabilitation program was due to aggressive reforms taken to boost revenue and contain costs, particularly the upward adjustment in its pricing of products and services compared to its competitors.

"We realized that we have been selling at a loss in a lot of areas so we adjusted our pricing a bit such as in our loans. It's still lower than the big banks but that strategy alone brought in P60-P70 million in incremental fee on a monthly basis," Tan said.

"We also adjusted some strategy in the remittance business which brought in some P60 million in the last four months and we expect to bring in P300 million this year," he said.

The reforms started last year translated to P1.1 billion in additional revenue in 2002 and are expected to bring in another P2.5 billion this year, Tan noted.

The bulk of PNB's revenue this year, about 40 percent, is seen to come from fee-based income. Treasury operations are expected to pump in 35 percent while the remaining 25 percent will come from earnings from holdings of government securities.

This year, the bank also hopes to raise at least P1 billion from the sale of P3.5 billion (based on marking-to-market) ropoa this year. Last year, the bank posted P800 million in gross profits from the sale of P1.9 billion worth of ropoa.

PNB also plans to bring up the ratio of its low-cost funds from 43 percent to 60 percent by 2005. It also plans to let go of about 300 staff this year as part of belt-tightening measures.

One key risk to PNB's financial targets this year, however, is the uptick in benchmark treasury bill rate, which has risen by 1.7 percentage points since the start of the year. For every percentage point rise in treasury bill rates, the bank stands to lose P168 million due to higher cost of holding on to its high level of non-performing assets.

About half of PNB's P65.8-billion lending portfolio as of end-2002 is considered as "bad" or non-performing. It is also saddled with P25 billion worth of ropoa as of the same period.

INTEREST RATES

May 27, 2003-
MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 27-May-03 (%)	MART1 26-May-03 (%)
1 Month	7.1154	7.2942
3 Months	7.125	7.125
6 Months	7.6327	8.2135
1 Year	8.3354	8.3354
2 Years	8.9865	9.1423
3 Years	9.9563	10.0673
4 Years	10.6083	10.7308
5 Years	11.0481	11.175
7 Years	11.5833	11.6461
10 Years	11.6981	11.7846
20 Years	12.6096	12.6096
25 Years	13.1635	13.1731

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Cha-cha at Polo Club

From page B1

west Airlines chair Gary Wilson, Washington Post editorial page editor Fred Hiatt, Wall Street Journal editorial page editor Paul Gigot, syndicated columnist George Will, eBay CEO Meg Whitman, and Filipino-Americans Miss America 2001 Angela Perez Baraquio, country singer Neal McCoy and flyweight Olympic boxer Brian Viloria, the New York Times and the Washington Post reported.

The 9,000-character account by the Washington Post was titled "Dinner with Tough Cookies."

The night ended before 11 with President Bush, the Washington Post reported, as telling his Philippine guests, "You'll be happy to hear that we go to bed early in this country."

Heard through the grapevine

THE MEMBERSHIP committee of the Wack Wack golf club has recommended the expulsion of plastics king William Gatchalian over the Greg Yu incident, but Wack Wack president Benjamin Abalos decided to defer the item from Thursday's board meeting in the hope of talking to Yu to forgive Gatchalian and drop the complaint.

Yu, however, remained steadfast, saying Gatchalian should first apologize to him.

The Wack Wack board is scheduled to meet again tomorrow.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@ [illegible] mail.com.)

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FLASHPOINT

Tapping into CEO wisdom

By Regina Galang Reyes

IF you knew what the best CEOs know, where would you be now in your career? Probably a lot further up the corporate ladder. Thus, Jeffrey A. Krames' book "What the Best CEOs Know" (McGraw-Hill, 2003) is a boon for all those who'd like to tap into the collective wisdom of the best CEOS in corporate America. He chose seven exceptional leaders for his book - Michael Dell of Dell Computer Corporation, Jack Welch of General Electric, Lou Gerstner of IBM, Andy Grove of Intel, Bill Gates of Microsoft, Herb Kelleher of Southwest Airlines, and San Walton of Wal-Mart. While most of them are no longer CEOs today, their companies prospered during their stint as CEOs and the ideas they pioneered still live on in these companies.

Krames tackled the topic on two fronts: first, he identified the traits that defined the successful CEOs and second, he summarized the strategies used by these exceptional leaders in founding and/or turning around their respective companies. The results are insights that captured the essence of the leaders and their successes which are easy to digest and accept because you know that these are based on live information on the CEOs.

FLASHPOINT

Effective leaders

For example, one common characteristic of leaders that he cites is "The most effective business leaders understand the critical role of culture, and how difficult it is to bring about meaningful cultural change." Now, culture change is a "soft" intervention, which many businessmen may be hard pressed to accept. But Krames cites experience after experience of how these CEOs used culture change to transform values into a better bottom line.

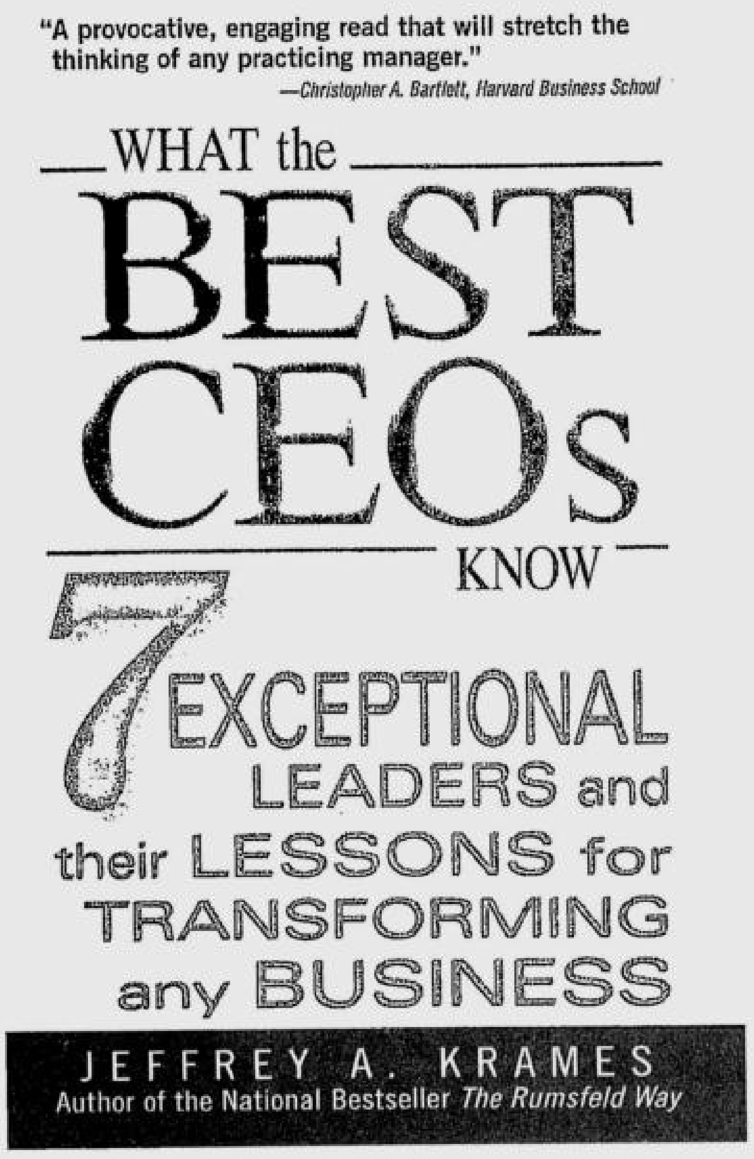
The leap to accepting his other insights may be too big to take however. For example, Krames claims that "Many exceptional CEOs have an 'evangelical leadership gene.'" While he may not have meant this literally, he makes a good case for its figurative meaning. He writes, "Each had a fire-in-the-belly excitement that helped to arouse enthusiasm in others. They felt strongly about a particular idea, product or process, and were able to use the bully pulpit of their office effectively to spread their 'gospel.'" This phraseology shows that Krames does have a masterful use of descriptive language that makes this business book different from the run-of-the-mill boring prints of other authors.

Corporate visions

Perhaps due to the wealth of information one can draw from the CEOs' lives, the portion on strategies may look rather thin. Curious readers would want a blow-by-blow account of the CEOs' struggles as they grapple with the intricacies of business challenges of the millennium. But if the author did so, the book would not have turned out to be a 240-page read that is so easy on the time of busy people trying to make their careers and businesses work. It is a tribute to Krames' distillation process that he has been able to draw the best lessons from the CEOs' experiences and outline the major strategic steps they took to bring the companies towards their corporate visions.

The next step after reading the book should be for the reader to be able to apply the learnings in their own careers and businesses. Krames makes this transition easy by prefacing each case study of a CEO with a hypothetical case study for the reader to solve. In this way, the reader gets to flex his skills in trying to see where all the lessons fit in his own reality.

While I take my hat off to these icons of business leaders of America, I would also like to have our own set of local business icons who can unstintingly share their expertise and experiences and who we can all salute with similar pride. Perhaps, its time to have a book called "What the Best Pinoy CEOs know." Who knows, with out famed Pinoy ingenuity, they probably can teach Krames a thing or two or more about leadership.



"A provocative, engaging read that will stretch the thinking of any practicing manager."
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JEFFREY A. KRAMES
Author of the National Bestseller *The Rumsfeld Way*

Steps in developing a mentoring relationship

By Josie O. Santamaria

(This is the last in the series of articles on career development strategies.)

SOMEONE in the organization, usually the top person in human resources, plans and implements a mentoring program. He helps identify a mentor. He facilitates the initial meetings of the mentor and the protégé to discover if there is a match. This match is a product of chemistry; chemistry can't be defined by rules.

Establishing a positive mentoring relationship is very much like establishing other valued human relationships in which both parties usually have a genuine desire to understand the values and expectations of the other, to respect and be sensitive to the other's needs and feelings.

Steps

To facilitate the matching process, the following steps should be taken by the "matchmaker:"

1. Identify the critical competencies required to develop a high potential person in a certain functional area. Then, identify an expert in that area.

2. Communicate the mentoring plan to the would-be mentor and get the latter's commitment. It is at this stage where the expert's degree of eagerness for the mentoring relationship can be gauged.

3. Put the protégé and the mentor informally together to get acquainted, and to know each other's interests, values and professional goals. If there are differences in work style and work habits (for example, the mentor wants the protégé to finish certain assigned tasks before scheduled meetings are held, or the mentor would want the protégé to confirm meetings) then, these issues are laid on the table and discussed.

4. If both agree to start the professional relationship, then they meet to communicate and agree upon some common expectations and procedures as a starting point. Generally, both agree on: frequency and length of meetings, availability and accessibility of both mentor and protégé to each other, amount and kind of support required by protégé and which can be provided by mentor, length of mentoring relationship, and how and in what manner feedback is to be given by the mentor to the protégé and, sometimes, vice versa.

There is also a need to clarify roles: Is the mentor a resource or guide, a teacher and coach, a role model, a listener and counselor or an observer? Is the mentor an initiator or will he wait only when his help is sought and his guidance needed? Is the protégé a listener, observer, a follower, a student? Is he a disciple learning from a master?

5. Once the above are clarified, and a contract has been prepared usually by the HR, and signed by both parties, then formal mentoring starts.

6. Before new challenges are presented, evaluation should take place. Proof that the protégé has acquired the competencies may need to be demonstrated, usually in the form of a project that the protégé has to do. The mentor evaluates the project if it meets the agreed-on standards, norms and values of the profession and those of the organization.

7. Mentor and protégé redefine their relationship. Mentoring continues, if needed. Otherwise, the relationship is terminated.

A healthy mentoring relationship is evolutionary rather than stable. It changes as perceptions change and as the protégé achieves new levels of competence and performance under the mentor's guidance and support. Quite often, the relationship results in mutual respect and trust so that the mentor and protégé continue the relationship but this time as colleagues or peers, and even as friends.

Advice to the high potential person

For the person seeking a mentor, here are some tips:

- Choose one whom you admire, not envy, and who is secure in his position. Avoid anyone, no matter how important or powerful, who has a track record of using people to satisfy self-serving interests. Loyalty must be mutual.
- Try to assess your mentor's motivation. Don't be flattered if a top executive likes your style and tells you that you have what it takes to make it to the top in his profession.
- Assess your own motivation. Don't seek a mentor just so you can move up. This makes you also a user. Your motivation in choosing a mentor is not only for you to learn from him and what you learn will benefit the organization. You also seek to find out from him what you can do for him. Be on the lookout on what you can do to be of service to him. This is still part of the professional relationship.
- Then, ask yourself: to whom do I give my loyalty? To my mentor or to the organization? If someday you are offered his job, will you get it?

Advice to the mentor

For the person considering to be a mentor, here are some tips:

- Think of mentoring as a calling, even part of your personal mission. Even though the mentor-protégé relationship should be mutual, be prepared to do more, to give more. You may own the present, but the future belongs to your protégé. If the first thing you ask yourself when you are asked to mentor is "What's in it for me?" or."How will I be rewarded?" you probably don't deserve to be a mentor.
- Accept ahead of time that you are likely to end up being disappointed. If you teach brilliantly, your pupil may well end up surpassing you, or replacing you, or stop acknowledging you as having been his mentor and the source of his success. Are you prepared for this scenario?
- Be sensitive when it is time for both of you and your protégé need to move on. When the protégé begins to show expert competence and knowledge, it is wise for you to take the lead in redefining your relationship. Move on and away. Be happy and take pride that whether acknowledged or not, you have contributed to the professional development of another individual in the organization and in society.

If you've participated in the mentoring process, you know that it never really stops. The people who had mentored you probably have an honored place in your memory and in your life-just as you will have for those you mentor. Mentors are always mentors in the minds and hearts of those they have helped. Your willingness to invest yourself in the life of another person will be the key that unlocks a treasure of fulfillment and accomplishment for many people, beginning with you.

(E-mail feedback to carsys@qinet.net*)*

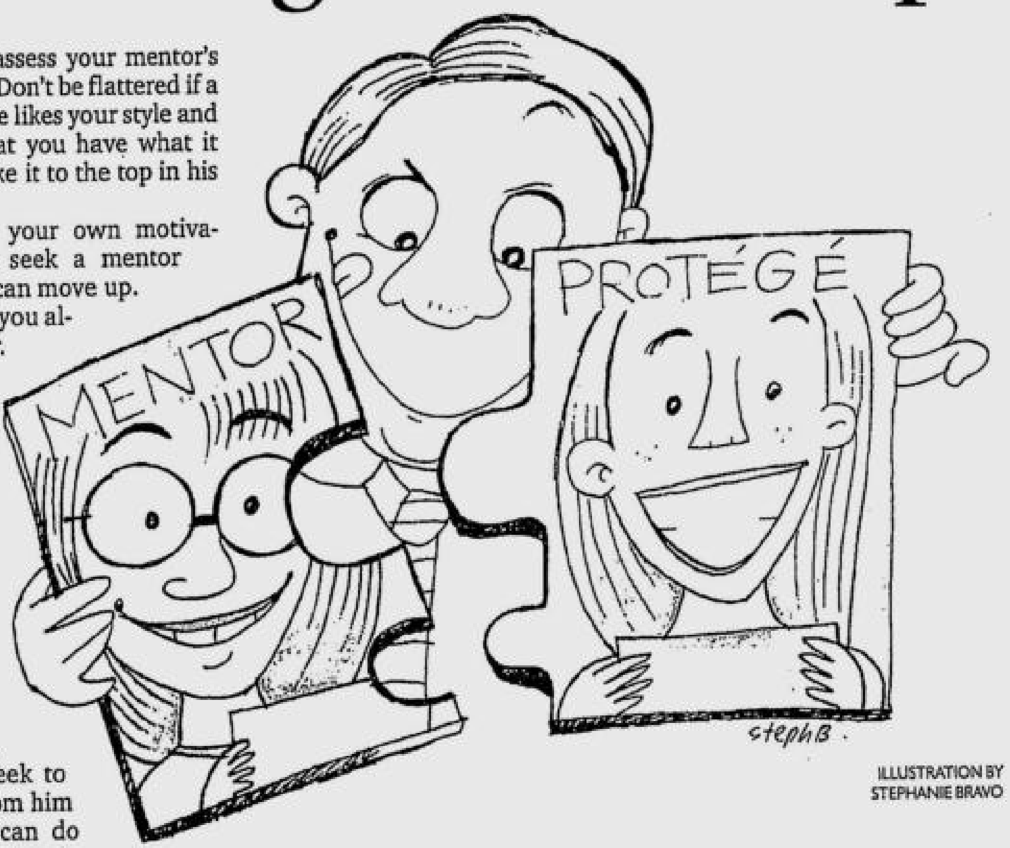


ILLUSTRATION BY
STEPHANIE BRAVO

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

ADVICEfor the Anxious Person at Work will be published every Sunday at Jobmarket's Sunday People at Work starting June 1, 2003.

How can I motivate my employees?

DEAR WW: I'm looking for a way to motivate my employees and a friend suggested a contest. But it sounds hokey to me. Do contests really work?

Baby, Can I Light Their Fire?

You've obviously never entered Publisher's Clearinghouse. You bet contests work-but you gotta do 'em right. Not like the bank that someone recently emailed me about that ran a motivational contest. Grand prize was...(drum roll): dinner at the bank! Now, I don't know about you, but when I think about award-winning dining, I don't exactly think 'bank.'

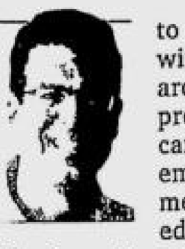
Then there was the hi-tech company that ran a contest challenging employees to find the bugs in a new piece of software. Only problem was, they ran the contest before the software was finished. Uh, guess what happened? Three engineers put bugs in the product just so they could find them. (Now they might be nerds, but they're no dummies.)

So your friend's got the right idea-you just have to do it right. The following questions, adapted from Management Would Be Easy...If It Weren't For The People by Patricia Addesso (Amacom Books, 1996), will give you some pointers.

What exactly are you trying to encourage? Make sure your contest rewards the right behavior. Bugs out of the program-not in it. That software company should have offered to reward employees who created a bug-free program, not the ones who cleaned up the mess. It sounds obvious, but take the time to figure out exactly the kind of behavior that you want before you start handing out prizes.

Do employees value the prize you're offering? There's only one sure way to come up with a great prize: ask the people you're trying to motivate. (Who knows? Maybe they'll want a dinner at a bank.)

WORKING WOUNDED



Bob Rosner

Is the contest outcome tied to performance or to chance? One small company I know created an Employee of the Month program, hoping to motivate outstanding performance. Trouble was, they failed to create measurable standards for winning (such as dollar sales or evaluations from customer comment sheets). As a result, any employee was eligible to win. And sure enough, after the first few months (wanting to preserve the company's "family atmosphere" and prevent hard feelings) the owner felt the need to spread the winning around. The program became a joke as employees merely waited for their turn to win.

Do employees believe they have a chance of winning? One manager told me about a contest he's run that no employee has ever won. "I haven't given anything away in four years," he bragged. I bet his employees aren't giving much either.

So to answer your question-"yes!" Contests can be great at lighting a fire-if they're well designed. The trick is to make sure you're not the one who gets burned.

(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com and RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

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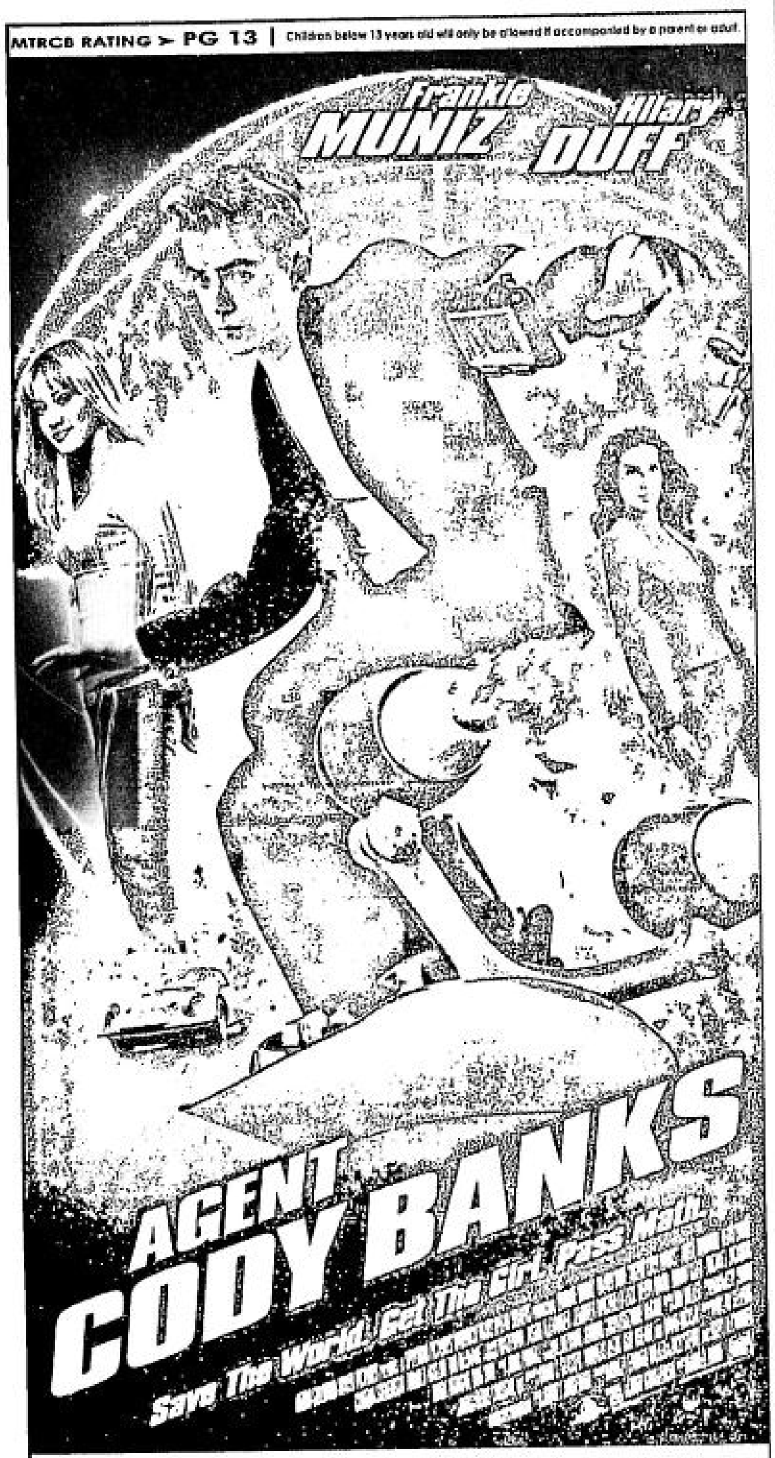

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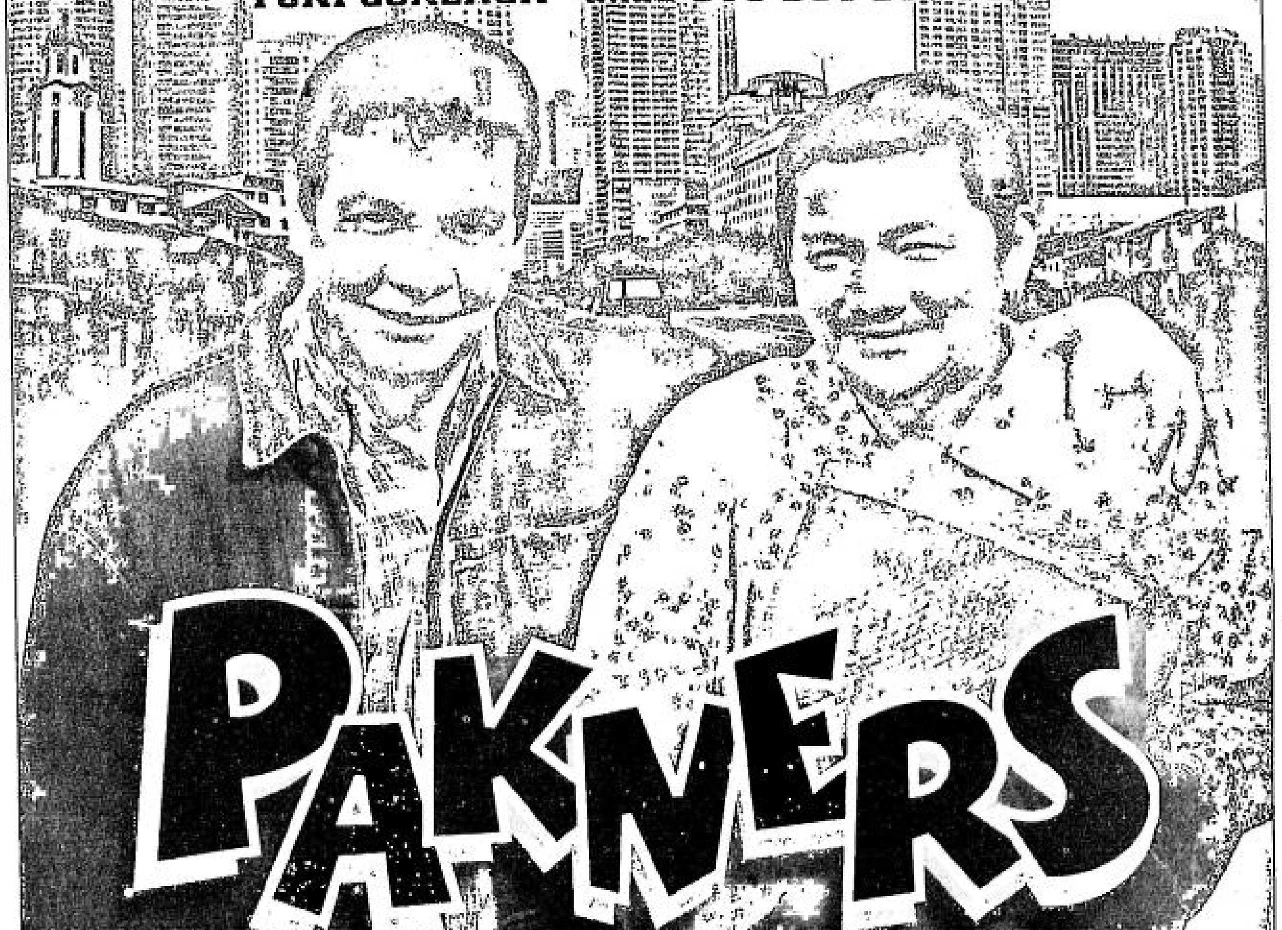

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Euro's climb drives down Japan, Asian stocks

SINGAPORE—The euro slipped slightly on Tuesday after climbing to a record high against the dollar, but the weakness of the greenback and a lack of other trading incentives drove Japanese stocks down more than one percent.

Other regional stock markets were also mostly lower after strong gains over the previous few sessions.

With both the United States and Britain on holiday on Monday, traders were searching for direction and volumes were low. A powerful earthquake in northern Japan on Monday briefly spooked markets, but the panic passed when there were no reports of deaths or major damage.

Gold rose slightly on the weak dollar but fell back later to around Monday's levels.

Oil ticked up on news that Saudi Arabia would cut supplies from June to match its lower OPEC limit.

Currency markets took heart from a strong German Ifo business climate index to send the euro higher in early Asian trade.

The euro traded at $1.1835/38, off the record high of $1.1915 it had hit earlier.

But the dollar was directionless against the yen due to a dearth of fresh trading factors and continuing fears of Japanese intervention.

It remained trapped in a range of 116.50 to 117.50 yen.

Despite the slight pause in its gains, traders said the euro was well into a bull run and heading to $1.20.

"The euro's bullish trend is continuing and at the moment we don't see many factors that can change it," said Hideaki Furumaya, head of the interbank desk at Trust and Custody Services Bank in Tokyo.

"The market is facing some resistance around $1.19, but the next major targets for the euro are $1.2 and 140 yen," he said.

Concern over the weak dollar weighed on Japanese stocks, which finished 1.3 percent weaker.

Banking sector results announced on Monday after the close were perceived as neutral and the market was also groping for direction because of the New York holiday, brokers said.

"Bank earnings are out and now there's no incentive left to buy. It's not disappointment or anything. Banks have been rising and investors have just decided to sell a little here," said Terushi Hirotama, head of trading at Ichiyoshi Securities.

"And we know Japan has trouble finding direction on its own. Investors are wary of how Wall Street will move today."

Most other regional stock markets were in a similar situation. Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia and Korea were all weaker.

But traders said some were consolidating after a strong run-up in recent days.

Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore, especially, have gained as fears of the SARS virus have begun to dissipate.

NYMEX crude futures ticked up to $29.25 to the barrel from $29.16 in New York on Friday on the news that Saudi Arabia would curtail output.

Spot gold was last at $370.10/80 per ounce, compared with $370.50/371.20 in late Asian trade on Monday. *Reuters*

A LOCAL parking attendant sits beside a few bicycles along a street in Shanghai. China's GDP is likely to rise 7.5 percent in 2003 compared to a previous estimate by the State Information Centre of 9 percent, reflecting the impact of SARS on the economy. AFP

SARS health crisis nibbles at China's economic growth

BEIJING—Instead of the usual delivery trucks, an ambulance pulled up to a Matsushita factory in Beijing's dusty north and unloaded seven white-coated medics. Their job: to check the quarantine.

Two Matsushita factories in Beijing shut down last week, idling nearly 6,000 workers, after Chinese employees fell ill with SARS — the second time the Japanese electronics maker was forced to suspend production.

Such closures highlight the outbreak's mounting impact on export industries that drive China's economy.

Even as reports of new cases decline, the potential for longer-term damage is rising as businesspeople avoid China and precautions within the country interfere with work and deliveries.

"The production system is seriously affected. Goods, materials and supplies are not being delivered," says Chen Xingdong, chief economist in Beijing for BNP Paribas Peregrine Securities Ltd.

China's leaders have told officials to do their best to minimize the disease's economic damage among Chinese companies and are promising subsidies for the hardest-hit industries.

And any fall in Chinese economic output will come from a level of growth that would be the envy of other major economies.

Before severe acute respiratory syndrome spread in earnest, China's economy grew by 9.9 percent in the first three months of this year—its fastest quarterly growth in seven years.

Industrial output rose 14.9 percent in April, according to the government. Retail sales were up 7.7 percent, even though many families in Beijing and other cities are avoiding shops and other public places.

But more economic pain is likely even after the outbreak passes.

Foreign companies, heeding advisories not to travel to the mainland, are putting off launching new products, opening new factories or starting new joint ventures.

A survey of 29 major multinational companies by Deutsche Bank found that 88 percent expected delays in business travel to affect investment plans. *AP*

Japan retail sales fall for 25th month in April

TOKYO—Japanese retail sales fell for the 25th straight month in April, pushed down by weak demand for cars and clothing as a poor outlook for unemployment and wages had consumers keeping a lid on spending.

Retail sales dropped by a preliminary 2.7 percent from the same month a year earlier, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) said on Tuesday.

Japan's consumers, among the world's most avid shoppers, had been helping to cushion the economy recently, willing to dip into savings to keep buying.

But analysts say this trend is ending as the outlook for the economy dims and people switch to rebuilding their savings on the expectation of rainy days ahead.

"Corporate earnings announcements show companies are seeing a rise in profits despite a fall in sales and that's dependent on job cuts, so the outlook for households is not good," said Yoshimasa Maruyama, economist at Mizuho Research Institute.

"The April retail sales are likely to have been affected by very bad weather on weekends, which hurt department store sales.

But even without that factor the overall trend is weak."

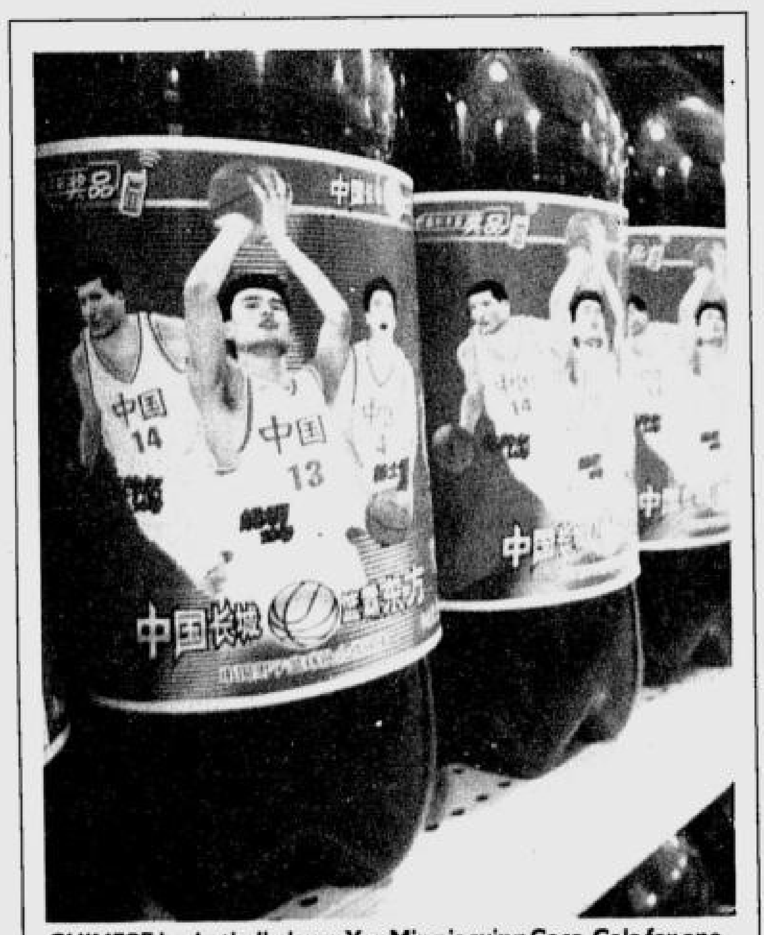
Exports, one of the main drivers of the economy, are set to weaken as conditions in Japan's main markets of Asia and the United States slow, forcing many firms to look at cutting costs to maintain profits.

Those cuts could come as reduced wages and bonuses—a key part of Japanese households' disposable income—and as staff reductions.

A Reuters poll last week showed Japan's unemployment rate likely stayed at 5.4 percent in April, just shy of an all-time high 5.5 percent.

A METI official told a news conference that the government maintained a cautious view on the retail industry.

Sales of cars in April fell for the first time in eight months, signaling an end to the strong run that automakers have had in recent months thanks to demand for small cars aimed at young city dwellers. *Reuters*



CHINESE basketball player Yao Ming is suing Coca-Cola for one yuan ($0.12), accusing the soft drinks giant of using his image improperly, officials and state media said on Tuesday. Yao, who plays center for the Houston Rockets and is a spokesperson for Pepsi Co., demanded the immediate recall of all Coca-Cola products and promotional materials bearing his image and name, the China Business Weekly said. REUTERS

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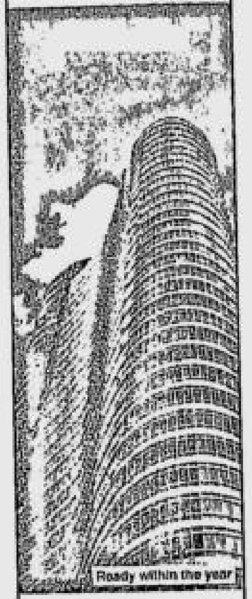

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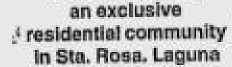

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Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

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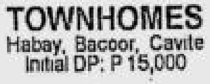
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000



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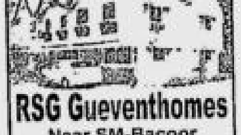

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Republic of the Philippines
City of Parañaque
Metro Manila

Office of the Treasurer

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

To satisfy the real estate tax delinquency of the following taxpayers, computation of which includes interest, surcharges and penalties thereon as of April 30, 2003 and after substantially complying with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act. 7160, the City Mayor through the undersigned City Treasurer, hereby gives notice to all interested parties and to the public in general that on June 6, 2003 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at the Legislative Building 2nd Floor City Hall of Parañaque City, the City Treasurer or his authorized representatives will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash and in Philippines Currency, the real estate properties described below:

Declared Owner	Area (Sqm.)	Classification/ Delqcy. Date	Tax Dec. Numbers	Amount of Delinquency	Interest Due As of April 30, 2003	Total Amt. of Delinquency
1. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. TCT NO. 30294 BGY. BACLARAN	1,002	COM'L. LAND 1998-2003	E002-04415	1,037,070.00	522,142.20	1,559,212.20
2. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 431 BGY. BACLARAN	38.14	COM'L. IMPVT. 1997-2003 Unit. No C-305	E002-04428	32,069.24	17,592.35	49,661.59
3. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 432 BGY. BACLARAN	38.14	COM'L. IMPVT. 1997-2003 Unit No. C-306	E002-04429	32,069.24	17,592.35	49,661.59
4. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 433 BGY. BACLARAN	252.56	COM'L. IMPVT. 1997-2003 Unit No. C-307	E002-04430	424,725.00	232,992.00	657,717.00
5. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 434 BGY. BACLARAN	118.16	RES. IMPVT. 1997-2003 Unit No. C-308	E002-04431	170,320.64	93,432.96	263,753.60
6. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 436 BGY. BACLARAN	158.90	RES. IMPVT. 2 Bedrooms 1998-2003 Unit No. 402	E002-04433	76,348.80	39,701.34	116,050.14
7. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 438 BGY. BACLARAN	187.90	RES. IMPVT. 3 Bedrooms 1998-2003 Unit No. 404	E002-04435	103,179.84	53,653.56	156,833.40
8. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 441 BGY. BACLARAN	174.81	RES. IMPVT. 1998-2003 Unit No. 407	E002-04438	83,992.80	43,676.22	127,669.02
9. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 458 BGY. BACLARAN	144.95	RES. IMPVT. 2 Bedrooms 1998-2003 Unit No 508	E002-04455	69,645.60	36,215.56	105,861.16
10. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 459 BGY. BACLARAN	144.95	RES. IMPVT. 2 Bedrooms 1998-2003 Unit No 701	E002-04456	69,645.60	36,215.56	105,861.16
11. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 466 BGY. BACLARAN	144.50	RES. IMPVT. 2 Bedrooms 1998-2003 Unit No 708	E002-04463	69,429.60	36,103.24	105,532.84
12. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 467 BGY. BACLARAN	144.80	RES. IMPVT. 2 Bedrooms 1998-2003 Unit No 801	E002-04464	69,573.60	36,178.12	105,751.72
13. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 475 BGY. BACLARAN	144.90	RES. IMPVT. 2 Bedrooms 1998-2003 Unit No 901	E002-04472	69,621.60	36,203.08	105,824.68
14. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 496 BGY. BACLARAN	95.30	RES. IMPVT. 1 Bedroom 1997-2003 Unit No 1106	E002-04493	53,421.20	29,305.16	82,726.36
15. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 508 BGY. BACLARAN	167.02	1997-2003 Unit No. 1402	E002-04505	88,019.68	48,285.06	136,304.74
16. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 515 BGY. BACLARAN	144.90	RES. IMPVT. 1997-2003 Unit No. 1501	E002-04512	81,225.20	44,557.64	125,782.84
17. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 523 BGY. BACLARAN	144.50	RES. IMPVT. 1998-2003 Unit No. 1601	E002-04520	69,429.60	36,103.24	105,532.84
18. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 556 BGY. BACLARAN	157.17	RES. IMPVT. 1998-2003 Unit No. 2002	E002-04553	75,517.44	39,269.06	114,786.50
19. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. BGY. BACLARAN	10,618.32	IMPROVEMENT 1993-2003 (COMMON AREA)	E002-04567	15,718,510.80	9,550,957.62	25,269,468.42
20. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 693 BGY. BACLARAN	12.50	IMP. PKNG. NO 4 1993-2003 Unit No. 2F No. 4	E002-04569	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
21. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 694 BGY. BACLARAN	12.50	IMP. PKNG. NO 5 1993-2003 Unit No. 2F No. 5	E002-04570	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
22. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 699 BGY. BACLARAN	12.50	IMP. PKNG. NO 10 1993-2003 Unit No. 2F No. 10	E002-04571	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
23. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 629 BGY. BACLARAN	12.50	IMP. PKNG. NO 13 1993-2003 Unit No. 2B No. 13	E002-04583	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
24. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 576 BGY. BACLARAN	12.50	IMP. PKNG. NO 3 1993-2003 Unit 3B No. 3	E002-04590	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
25. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 577 BGY. BACLARAN	12.50	IMP. PKNG NO 4 1993-2003 Unit No. 3B No. 22	E002-04591	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
26. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 587 BGY. BACLARAN	12.50	IMP. PKNG. NO 14 1993-2003 Unit No. 3B No. 14	E002-04595	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
27. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. CCT NO. 588 BGY. BACLARAN	12.50	IMP. PKNG. NO 15 1993-2003 Unit No. 3B No. 15	E002-04596	9,588.80	5,795.14	15,383.94
28. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. TCT NO. 30295 BGY. BACLARAN	780	COM'L. LAND 1998-2003	E002-04607	807,300.00	406,458.00	1,213,758.00
29. STANDFORD RESOURCES AND DEV. CORP. TCT NO. 30296 BGY. BACLARAN	446	COM'L. LAND 1998-2003	E002-04608	461,610.00	232,410.60	694,020.60
			Sub-total			31,374,841.92
30. BEATRIZ CRUZ TCT NO. 41658 BGY. SAN DIONISIO	1,652	COM'L LOT 1993-2002	E010-06479	485,688.00	305,091.36	790,779.36
31. GABRIEL & LAURA ELORDE BOXING AREA BALCONY BGY. SAN ANTONIO	608 224	COM'L. IMPV'T. 1985-2002 1988-2002	E009-09527	511,673.90	763,578.01	1,275,251.91
32. BENITO DELA CRUZ TCT NO. 107866 BGY. SAN DIONISIO	252	RES. LOT 1994-2002	E010-01896	8,719.20	5,673.12	14,392.32
33. BENITO DELA CRUZ BGY. SAN DIONISIO	79.56	RES. IMPV'T. 1994-2002	E010-01897	11,103.70	7,274.68	18,378.38
34. BENITO DELA CRUZ BGY. SAN DIONISIO	77.75	RESL. IMPV'T. 1994-2002	E010-01898	11,103.70	7,274.68	18,378.38
35. BENITO DELA CRUZ TCT NO. 107867 BGY. SAN DIONISIO	252	RES. LOT 1994-2002	E010-01943	8,719.20	5,673.12	14,392.32
36. BENITO DELA CRUZ BGY. SAN DIONISIO	25.92	RES. IMPV'T. 1994-2003	E010-01944	4,295.70	2,814.52	7,110.22
			Sub-total			2,138,682.89
			TOTAL			33,513,524.81

(Sgd.) LIBERATO M. CARABEO
City Treasurer

(PDI--May 28 & June 4, 2003)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

MAKATI VILLAGES 4-6BRS P50T-180T/MO 6337601-03

SANLO DUPLEX 5268048/49

BAGUIO

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•Mega Plaza 2BR 20T 4121825

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

Loyola Grandvilla 926-8228

APARTMENT

MANILA

SAN SEBASTIAN UNIV BELT 7041058/7348912 OFC HRS

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

PASAY

2BR Cuenca 8315026/5500254

QUEZON CITY

1BR Kalpnan 6815834/7275728

Cubao Lady P3.5 9124428

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RESORT LEASE/ RENT

LOBO BATANGAS 8315945

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSINESS/SALARY 8422788

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2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

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FREE CAREGIVER T5280730

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- BIRB-COMP01-250-2000
- BIRB-COMP01-252-2000;
Comp. Optr II
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(Sgd.) ANSELMO G. ADRIANO
OIC, Regional Director

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OFC MKTG PERSONEL DIRECT HIRE CALL 9134470 OLGA

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Sps. Renato L. Samson & Remedios C. Samson was extrajudicially settled among their heirs under a public document on May 27, 2003 as per Doc. No. 962 ; Page No. 98; Book 440; Series Of 2003 before Atty. Salvador R. Aguinaldo of Mla. (PDI May 28, June 4 & 11 2003)

Notice is hereby given that affidavit of Self Adjudication of estate of late Angelina F. Comsti has settled as per Doc. No. 217, Page No. 44, Book No. LII, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. El Cid C. Fajardo in Pasig City (PDI-May 21, 28, June 4, 2003)

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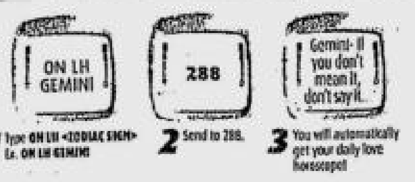
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288
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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date : May 9, 2003
Reference No. : ___________

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Contract Code : **Sp03.LSRP.VI-0004, Schedule I**
   Title : **Construction, Erection and Installation of 230kV & 138kV Substation Equipment for Ormoc Substation**
   Location : **Ormoc City (Visayas)**
2. The works to be performed by the Contractor shall consist of furnishing labor, materials, equipment, supplies, tools and technical services including hauling, delivery, revamping, installing and testing of substation equipment and materials to complete the 230kV & 138kV Ormoc Substation. The work also includes construction of substation equipment foundation, warehouse, pumphouse, installation of cable trays and cable trench.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is P28,970,870.00 from the Internal Cash Generation of the National Transmission Corporation.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid/project with the following License and Registration Particulars issued by IAC:
   Size Range : **Medium 'Sub-Category B' Specialty Electrical Works**
   License Category : **A 'Specialty: Electrical Works'**
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible bidders shall be invited by TransCo in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the Contractor's offer to be contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for issuance on **May 21, 2003** at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second Floor, National Transmission Corporation, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of **Eight Hundred Pesos (P800.00) per copy.**
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before 2:00 p.m. of **June 21, 2003** and shall be submitted at the registration office with address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Contractor, not yet included in the TransCo's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including, in the case of procurement of civil works, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the CIAP;
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
   - Contractor's License
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) W. SM. PANGILINAN
Chairman
Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - May 23, 28 & June 3, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph
Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

NON-LINEAR EDITING MACHINE & OTHER EQUIPMENT

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM is inviting bidders for the purchase of a non-linear editing machine and othe equipment.

ITEM	QUANTITY
Non-linear editing system package	1 set
Other Equipment:	
1. Color TV monitor	2
2. DV Camera	1
3. SVHS Camera	1
4. DV Cam Tripod	1
5. SVHS Cam Tripod	1
6. DV VCR	2
7. Double Deck Cassette	1
8. DVD/VCD Player	1
9. DVD/VCD Recorder	1
10. SVHS VCR	1
11. VHS Duplicator	1
12. Digital AV Mixer	1
13. Poster Printer	1

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P2,800,000.00
Source of Funding : Capital Expenditure - Other Equipment

Interested bidders must secure the Eligibility Requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Only the eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 to cover of the bidding documents. For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents is on **16 June 2003**.

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - May 28, 2003)

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Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
POEA Bldg., Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA,
Mandaluyong City 1501
P.O. Box 175 Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. 7221144 • 7221155 • E-mail: info@poea.gov.ph
Website: www.poea.gov.ph

GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 02

Series of 2003

WHEREAS, it is the general policy of the government to promote the welfare and protection of Filipino migrant workers, including overseas performing artists bound for Japan;

WHEREAS, the opportunities presented by the Japan labor market for Filipino OPAs is substantial and important for the growth of the overseas employment industry;

WHEREAS, there is a need to rationalize the existing regulations on the recruitment and deployment of Filipino OPAs to Japan inorder to adapt it to developments in host country and Philippine regulations;

WHEREAS, Section 12, Rule I Part III of the POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Landbased Workers provides that the registration of principals in countries with unique or special conditions of employment shall be governed by guidelines to be prescribed by the Administration;

NOW, THEREFORE, the POEA Governing Board, in a meeting duly convened, hereby resolved, as it is hereby resolved, to authorize the Administrator of the POEA to promulgate the necessary amendatory guidelines relative to the recruitment and deployment of Filipino overseas performing artists to Japan. The new guidelines shall facilitate the procedures for verification and registration of principals by the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices and the POEA, respectively and the issuance of POEA exit clearances to workers, without prejudice to their welfare and protection.

It is also hereby further resolved that the following general policies shall be embodied in the guidelines:

1. Verification by POLOs. The special power of attorney issued by the principal to the Philippine agency and the manpower request of the principal shall be verified by the POLO. A certificate of verification, valid for one year, shall be issued by the POLO to the principal together with the verified documents. The POLO shall also verify individual employment contracts of workers upon issuance by the Japanese immigration of their certificate of eligibility.
2. Agencies seeking registration of Japanese principals shall submit the following documentary requirements to POEA:
   - Certificate of Verification from the POLO
   - Verified and authenticated Special Power of Attorney (SPA)
   - Verified and authenticated manpower request
   - Escrow agreement and deposit of US$20,000 or its equivalent in Philippine currency deposited in a commercial bank in the Philippines.

The individually verified / authenticated employment contract of the worker shall be a requirement for issuance of the POEA exit clearance.

3. Requirements in the employment contract. The employment contract for OPAs bound for Japan shall include provisions on worker coverage in a health, hospitalization and death insurance at a minimum amount of Y3 million for each of the risks insured and such insurance shall be obtained in the worksite from an entity duly registered by the proper Japanese authority. It shall also specify a minimum gross compensation of Y200,000 inclusive of a maximum monthly food allowance of Y30,000 and maximum monthly accommodation allowance of Y30,000 and subject to authorized deduction for income tax at 20 percent of the gross compensation. The worker's net compensation shall not be lower than Y100,000 per month.

All issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Done in the City of Mandaluyong, this 23rd day of May 2003.

(Sgd.) **PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS**
Secretary of Labor and Employment
and Chairman of the Board

(Sgd.) **VICENTE F. ALDANESE**
Member

(Sgd.) **GREGORIO S. OCA**
Member

(Sgd.) **EZEKIEL T. ALUNEN**
Member

(Sgd.) **LUZVIMINDA L. ELBINIAS**
Member

(Sgd.) **ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ**
Member

(PDI–May 28, 2003)

Department of Labor and Employment

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MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

JOCELYN M. ROJAS-ABESAMIS

Of Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija, Catbalogan, Samar & Quezon City

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on April 19, 2003.

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our relatives, townmates, friends, justices, judges, co-employees in the Court of Appeals, comadres and compadres, and all those who in our time of deepest sorrow and hour of grief were there.

Thank you for visiting us and being with us; for praying with us and for us; for offering Holy Masses; for the beautiful flowers to express compassion; for attending the funeral rites; and for all that you have done to console our hearts.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL

Husband : Justice Bernardo P. Abesamis
Children/in-law & Grandchildren : Atty. Ferdinand and Josephine (de Guzman):
Aj & Jb
Atty. Edmund and Janet (Jose): Jeric, Justin & Joshua
Engr. Bernardo, Jr. and Miles (Cuaresma)
Atty. Alejandro and Louella (Bides): Gideon & Carlos
Q.C. Councilor Rommel and Bernadette (Enriquez):
Therese, Miggy & Katie
BSEco. Moonyeen (deceased) and Rodolfo Ayache:
Micah Aubrey
Dr. Sheilah and Dr. Jay (Recasata):
Nicco, Nikki, Nathan & Neo

Please join us at a Holy Mass of the Resurrection on the 40th day of Mommy's demise today, May 28, at 3:00 p.m. at the Garden of Love, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
AURELIO C. BADAYOS	May 28, 2003	1:00 PM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Memorial Park, Calamba City	Sitio Locomotive Canlubang, Laguna
FILIPINA TOLENTINO	May 29, 2003	1:30 PM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Memorial Park, Calamba City	216 Don Bosco St. Mayapa, Calamba City

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DANILO S. PARAS

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on May 24, 2003 at the age of 56.

His bereaved family, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on May 29, 2003, Thursday, after the 11:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park – Parañaque.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER BITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
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Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

CLASSIFIEDS

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
POEA Bldg., Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA,
Mandaluyong City 1501
P.O. Box 175 Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. 7221144 • 7221155 • E-mail: info@poea.gov.ph
Website: www.poea.gov.ph

GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 03

Series of 2003

WHEREAS, Section 1, Rule 1, Part III of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Rules and Regulation Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Land-based Overseas Workers provide for verification of recruitment and employment documents of foreign principals, employers and projects by the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO);

WHEREAS, Department Order No. 17-02 was issued by Labor Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas on 1 February 2002 to implement this policy on full verification of recruitment and employment documents for overseas employment;

WHEREAS, there are friendly markets that provide better welfare and protection mechanisms for migrant workers, particularly in the United States of America, Canada, and Europe;

WHEREAS, in recognition of this development, it is imperative to amend the existing regulations in conformity with the deregulation thrust of the Department of Labor and Employment, particularly the POEA by exempting from the verification requirement the recruitment and employment documents of landbased workers for United States of America, Canadan, and Europe;

NOW, THEREFORE, the POEA Governing Board, in a meeting duly convened, hereby exempts from the verification requirement the recruitment and employment documents of landbased workers for United States of America, Canada, and Europe.

Done in the City of Mandaluyong, this 23rd day of May 2003.

(Sgd.) **PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS**
Secretary of Labor and Employment
and Chairman of the Board

(Sgd.) **VICENTE F. ALDANESE**
Member

(Sgd.) **GREGORIO S. OCA**
Member

(Sgd.) **EZEKIEL T. ALUNEN**
Member

(Sgd.) **LUZVIMINDA L. ELBINIAS**
Member

(Sgd.) **ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ**
Member

(PDI – May 28, 2003)

Trans Co

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. TRANSCO 2003-06A

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), Transco wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
DATE OF BIDDING: JUNE 20, 2003; 10:00 AM			
A1	1 SET	BATTERY GROUND FAULT LOCATOR	3PSMDS-03-029
A2	1 SET	ULTRAPROBE LEAK DETECTOR	3PSMDS-03-032

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLT, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule starting May 29, 2003. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLT Bidding Room, Transco-SL, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the date specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Initial Technical Proposals of eligible bidders will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) **R.D. RAMAS**
CHAIRMAN-BAC
TRANSCO SOUTH

(PDI – May 28, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COTABATO CITY WATER DISTRICT
Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Cotabato City Water District invites interested parties to submit sealed bids for the public bidding of supply, delivery and installation of one (1) Unit - FLOAT CONTROL VALVE 20" (50mm) Diameter, Flanged Type, Y-pattern with Double Chambered Diaphragm Actuated Hydraulically Operated, with approved budget of 1.5M.

Interested parties may secure bid documents and the checklist of the qualification requirements from Cotabato City Water District.

The schedule of the bidding activities is as follows:

PARTICULAR	DATE/TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	May 29 to June 6, 2003/8:00 am-5:00 pm
Opening/Submission of bids	June 18, 2003, Wed./10:00 am

Bidders shall submit two (2) sealed envelopes containing a) TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS (e.g. qualification requirements indicated in the checklist, bid security as to form, amount and validity period, authority of signatory, after sales service/parts, catalogues/brochures/other literatures, etc.); and b) FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS at the Cotabato City Water District.

The CCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the CCWD. The CCWD likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL D. MAGDAEL**
Chairperson
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--May 21 & 28, 2003)

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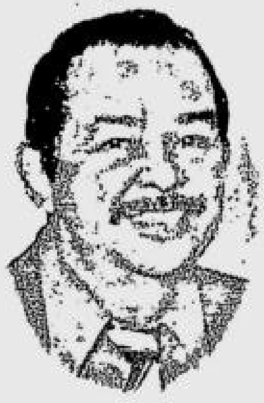
Matthew 25:34

Amador T. Buenaseda, Jr.

February 6, 1939 – May 26, 2003



To us, his family, he was a caring husband and a truly devoted and loving father to his children. We know that his friends, business associates, former classmates, will miss his kindness, generosity, sense of humor. We shall be grateful for prayers from those whose lives he has touched.

Dit lies in state at the **Mt. Carmel Shrine, Doña Juana Rodriguez, New Manila, Quezon City**. Interment will be on **Friday, May 30, 2003** at the **Loyola Memorial Park** in **Marikina**, after the **9:00 a.m. Mass** at the **Mt. Carmel Shrine.**

His bereaved family : Wife, **Lourdes Pallagud**
Children and in-laws : **Ann & Nelson, Dodgie & Abi, Vic & Jocelyn, Gogo, Riza & Jorge, Ayoy, Angelo, Mayet**
Grandchildren : **Angelo, Kyle, Bubu, Darla, Gian & Enzo**
Sisters : **Milagros B. Robles, Josefina B. Nisperos, Grace B. Aquilizan**

In lieu of flowers, donation to the **Mt. Carmel Seminarians, Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City** or to the **SVD Mission Philippines c/o Father Jerry Orbos, SVD** will be highly appreciated.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever...
Psalms 27:4

AMADOR T. BUENASEDA, JR.

February 6, 1939 – May 26, 2003

BUENACOM

The Directors, Officers, and Staff of **BUENASEDA COMMERCIAL, INC. (BUENACOM)** extend their heartfelt condolences to the family of "Boss" Dit Buenaseda, President and Chief Executive Officer. He was a thoughtful, kind and generous friend. He shall remain in our hearts, we shall miss him.

Boss Dit lies in state at the **Mt. Carmel Shrine, Doña Juana Rodriguez, New Manila, Quezon City.** Interment will be on **May 30, 2003** at the **Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina,** after the **9:00 a.m. Mass** at the **Mt. Carmel Shrine.**

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Early Childhood Development Project
Supply and Delivery of Vitamin A and Ferrous Sulfate Tablets
IFB No. WB-BCD-03-DOH-001

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of Early Childhood Development Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation for bids is issued.
2. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of various food supplements as follows:

Item No.	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Ferrous Sulfate Tablets	300,980,000	Tablets
2	Vitamin A, 100,000 IU	951,500	Capsules
3	Vitamin A, 200,000 IU	7,820,000	Capsules

3. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the Office of Procurement and Logistics Service, Building 26, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound. Sta. Cruz, Manila with telephone numbers (632) 338-3413 to 14, fax number (632) 743-9582 / 711-6831 from 2 June to 10 July 2003, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of anon-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00) or US$150 including air courier for foreign bidder. The method of payment will be in cash, or bank draft. If payment is in form of bank draft, the check should be for the account of the Department of Health. Information including names of potentials bidders and contact persons, telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
6. Bids must be delivered at the HHRDB Conference Room, Department of Health, Building 12A, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila at or before 9:00 a.m. on 11 July 2003. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of total bid. Late bids will be rejected outright and returned unopened to the bidder.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bidding conference will be held at the COBAC Office at 9:00 a.m. on 27 June 2003.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend on 11 July 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at the HHRDR Conference Room, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

By the authority of the Secretary:

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary and Chairperson
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - May 28, 2003)

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PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION, INC.
Host to the 2004 Global Marketing Conference

NEWS @ PMA

34TH NATIONAL MARKETING CONFERENCE

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NEW markets to be conquered. New trends to be tamed. New goods to entice consumers. Marketing is about innovation, creativity, and most importantly, being able to adapt to change.

The Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) addresses these issues brought about by constant change during the 34th National Marketing Conference (NMC), set on May 28 and 29 at the Grand Ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Guided by the theme "Creative Marketing: New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies," as the 34th NMC furnishes local marketers with tools needed to survive and excel in the ever evolving local and international marketing scenario.

A gathering of marketing enthusiasts from all sectors of the community, the NMC honors marketing success stories and aims to inspire marketers to trust their instincts and be creative. With the most inspiring and reliable marketing gurus as speakers, this conference promises to be a one-of-a-kind educational journey in preparation for tougher times ahead.

The advent of new markets calls for a more creative stance in marketing. A review and modification of existing rules is in order. To cope with consumer demands and to retain customer loyalty, marketers have to constantly conceptualize and execute new strategies.

With the market scenario becoming unpredictable every minute, there exists the need for creative marketing to be heard. This is an urgent call for new strategies and fresh ideas on how to cope with the times. There is a need for an open mind in the emerging markets. That creativity and ingenuity should be a must in order to prevail in our marketing scenario should be addressed.

Creative marketing essentially involves the meeting of the minds of three sectors of the government – business, government and the civil society. With these three working hand in hand, our country will be set on the right path to economic progress and development.

COMMITTEE AT WORK
From left, Beth Lao, Jerry Yao and Gennie De Guia

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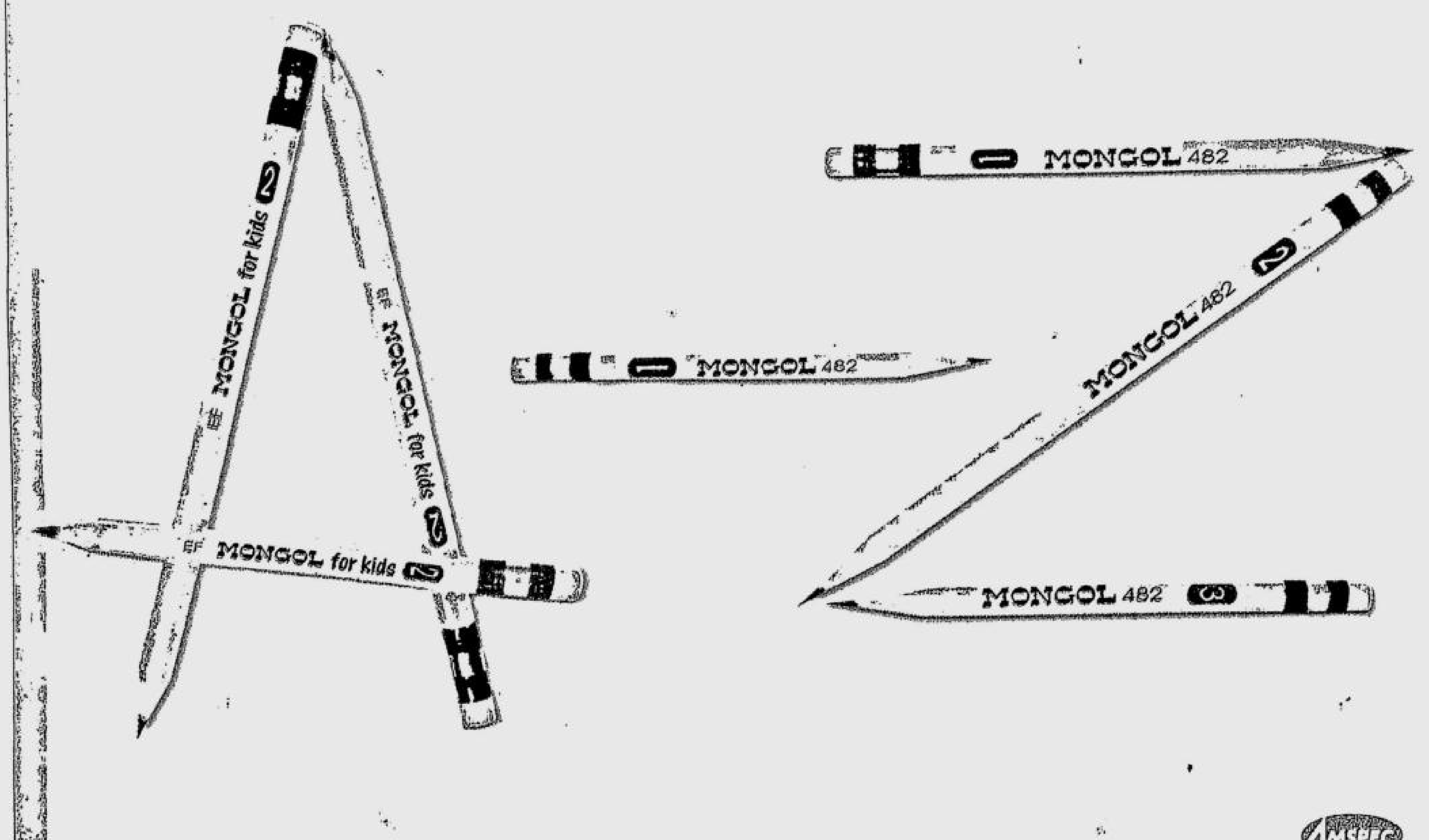
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MESSAGES

"The fruit of success greatly depends on the efforts that one has set within, add an ounce of humility, and you are on your way to the path of true greatness".

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I salute and congratulate the organizers, participants and successful marketers for choosing a most appropriate theme "Creative Marketing: New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies" presenting challenges that brings out the ingenious talents of the Filipino.

As we unite to celebrate this momentous occasion, may you all be reminded that the most noble objective of this conference is to contribute towards the progress and development of the business sector, and the Filipino nation as a whole. This event gives opportunity for the people to learn new technologies and techniques that the loval marketing industry presents.

I urge each and everyone of you to stay upbeat and vigilant as the whole nation join hands in leading the country to greater progress and stability. May you serve as an inspiration for all Filipinos in order for us to achieve greater heights in both the local and international communities. Always consider what you can do for your fellowmen and for your country. Thrive in the face of adversity. Be proud to be part of the great Filipino nation.

Mabuhay kayong lahat.

RAMON MAGSAYSAY JR.
Senator
Republic of the Philippines

WARM greetings to everyone especially the delegates from all over the country who came here at the Philippine Plaza Hotel to attend the much-awaited National Marketing Conference. It is a great pleasure from us, this year's PMA Board and the NMC Committee, to see that all our efforts are now paying off with a tremendous response from the various sectors by being counted as one of the over than 1,000 delegates who are here. As you can see from the line up of speakers, we shall inform, motivate and excite you on many different ideas that revolve around the theme, "Creative Marketing: New Ideas, New Markets, New Strategies." Times are changing fast and we need to nourish our minds on sparkling ideas that can propel our business to greater achievements. And what a better way to do it by listening to great speakers who generously accepted the invitation.

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We are all gearing up for the World Marketing Conference next year since the Philippines is the site of the WMC, which is just the right event to celebrate PMA's Golden Year Anniversary. The success of this year's NMC will inspire us further to do our best next year. We want to meet the standards of Lester Pearson as he says "To deserve success is more important than to achieve it." We hope we can get a final mark of a well-deserved success at the end of this year's NMC so that we can now aim for a global record-breaking success next year.

LEONARDO R. GARCIA JR.
President
National Marketing Conference

WELCOME to the 34th National Marketing Conference.

Putting together a conference this magnitude was made possible by men, women and companies committed to a shared vision: A Better Philippines.

We enjoin you today to invest your share and help weave a new destiny for our people. From the limited resources and opportunities open to our country today, we can only rely on our creative minds to bring together a national resolution. Alleviating the poor state of the nation means building new markets, new rules and new strategies.

You have just made the first step.

To God be the glory.

MA. VERONICA F. HIZON
Executive Vice President
PMA, 34th NMC Director

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Let us do our share to serve the common good. Happy and meaningful learning to all.

HENRY S. TENEDERO
Overall Chair
34TH PMA NMC

The PMA through the years

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To date, the PMA commits itself to the task of nation building by presenting the realities of today and the demands of tomorrow.

ASSOCIATION, INC.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE 34TH PMA NATIONAL MARKETING CONFERENCE

From left: (standing) Edmund A. Alcaraz, chair, staging; Herminio J. Del Rosario, chair, marketing; Cergen D. Go, vice chair, ways and means; Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia, Jr., president; Henry S. Tenedero, over-all chair; Miguel C. Ramos, over-all vice chair. Seated, Pamela S. Adriano, chair, administration; Ting I. Samonte, chair, exhibit; Ma. Veronica F. Hizon, EVP/director, 34th NMC, Josephine D. Gomez, chair, program, Ruby T. Ramores, chair, ways and means.

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TABLE OF ACTIVITIES

DAY ONE: MAY 28, 2003

7:00	Registration
8am to 9am	Networking Coffee
9am	Call to Order
9am to 9:20am	Opening Ceremonies Invocation Philippine National Anthem President's Welcome Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia Jr. PMA President NMC Director's Opening Ms Von F. Hizon PMA Exec. Vice President
9:20to 9:40	Keynote Address Hon. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. Senator
9:40 to 9:50	Session Chair Opening Mr Jun Malacaman 1995 PMA President
9:50 to 10:50	Session One: "Filipino Marketing Style: Understanding Why Consumers Behave the Way They Behave" Dr. Landa F. Jocano Executive Director Punlad Research House
10:50 to 11:50	Session Two: "Insight Marketing: Knowing What Your Customers Want" Ms Judy Qua Psychologist / Mind Trainor Silva Method
11:50 to 12:00	Sponsors' Corner
12:00 to 1:30	Networking Lunch
1:30 to 1:35	Session Chair Opening
1:35 to 2:45	Session Three: "Advocacy Marketing: Innovative Governance" Hon. Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. Secretary, Department of Agriculture
2:45 to 3:50	Session Four: "Imaginative Marketing: Advertising that Delivers Results" Mr Dave Guerrero Chairman, BBDO Guerrero Ortega
3:50 to 4:15	Afternoon Break
4:15 to 5:30	Session Five: "Relationship Marketing: Building Customer Loyalty" Mr Dioscoro L. Garing Jr. Founder and President Salesman's Center
5:30 to 5:40	Session Chair Summary

Overview of Day 2

DAY TWO: MAY 29, 2003

8:00 to 9:00	Networking Coffee
9:00	Call to Order
9:00 to 9:10	Recap of Day One Session Chair Opening Ms Sabsy Palanca 1983 PMA President
9:10 to 10:15	Session Six: "Channel Marketing: Discovering New Opportunities for Growth" Mr Tommy B. Lopez Professor Asian Institute of Management
10:15 to 11:20	Session Seven: "Trade Marketing: Outsourcing New Business Opportunities" Mr Jay Bernardo President and CEO JAD Group of Companies
11:20 to 12:25	Session Eight: "Sizzling Marketing Promotions: Hot Button Strategies that Work" Mr Jan Willem Adrian Reg. Mktg. and Product Dev't Manager Spring (Reshaping Global Mail)
12:25 to 12:30	Sponsor's Corner
12:30 to 2:00	Networking Lunch
2:00 to 2:10	Agora Awards 2003 Launch
2:10 to 2:15	Session Chair Opening
2:15 to 3:20	Session Nine: "Predictive Marketing: Data Mining to Optimize Results" Dr. Jose Ramon Albert Statistician V and Chief, Research Division Statistical Research and Training Center
3:20 to 4:25	Session Ten: "Enhancing Profitability: Managing Emergent Products in an Emergent Marketplace" Mr Aniceto B. Fontanilla, President The Asia Pacific Center for Research
4:25 to 4:40	Afternoon Break
4:40 to 5:45	Session Eleven: "The Consummate Marketer: Moving Towards Excellence" Mr Howard Belton Chairman and CEO Unilever Philippines
5:45 to 6:25	Session Twelve: "The Creative Marketer: Where Do You Go from Here?" Mr Henry S. Tenedero President Center for Teaching and Learning Styles
6:25 to 6:30	Session Chair Summary Conference Recap / Closing Raffle Draw

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MESSAGES

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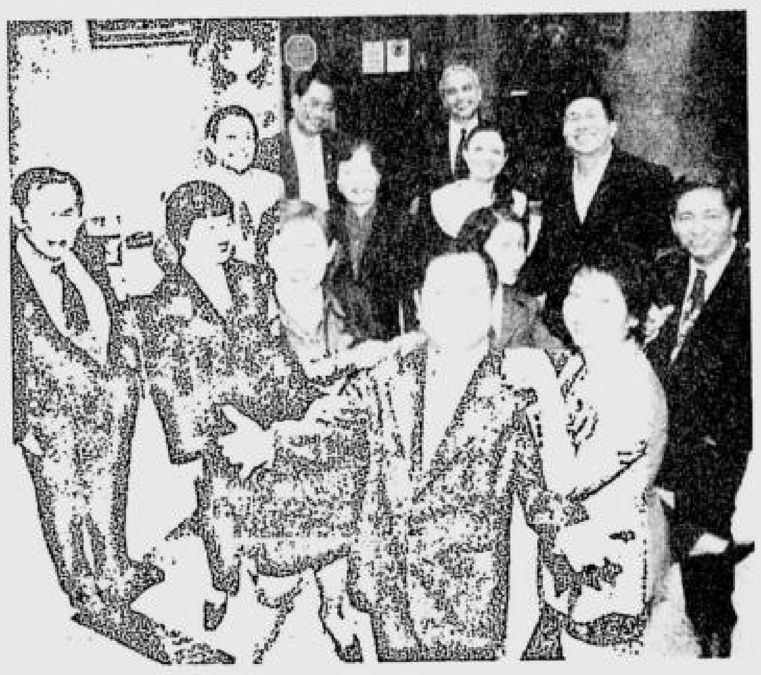

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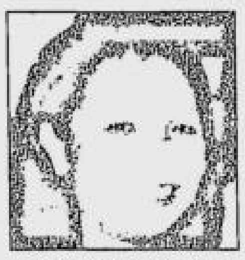

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TABLE OF ACTIVITIES

DAY ONE: MAY 28, 2003

7:00	Registration
8am to 9am	Networking Coffee
9am	Call to Order
9am to 9:20am	Opening Ceremonies Invocation Philippine National Anthem President's Welcome Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia Jr. PMA President NMC Director's Opening Ms Von F. Hizon PMA Exec. Vice President
9:20to 9:40	Keynote Address Hon. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. Senator
9:40 to 9:50	Session Chair Opening Mr Jun Malacaman 1995 PMA President
9:50 to 10:50	Session One: "Filipino Marketing Style: Understanding Why Consumers Behave the Way They Behave" Dr. Landa F. Jocano Executive Director Punlad Research House
10:50 to 11:50	Session Two: "Insight Marketing: Knowing What Your Customers Want" Ms Judy Qua Psychologist / Mind Trainor Silva Method
11:50 to 12:00	Sponsors' Corner
12:00 to 1:30	Networking Lunch
1:30 to 1:35	Session Chair Opening
1:35 to 2:45	Session Three: "Advocacy Marketing: Innovative Governance" Hon. Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. Secretary, Department of Agriculture
2:45 to 3:50	Session Four: "Imaginative Marketing: Advertising that Delivers Results" Mr Dave Guerrero Chairman, BBDO Guerrero Ortega
3:50 to 4:15	Afternoon Break
4:15 to 5:30	Session Five: "Relationship Marketing: Building Customer Loyalty" Mr Dioscoro L. Garing Jr. Founder and President Salesman's Center
5:30 to 5:40	Session Chair Summary

Overview of Day 2

DAY TWO: MAY 29, 2003

8:00 to 9:00	Networking Coffee
9:00	Call to Order
9:00 to 9:10	Recap of Day One Session Chair Opening Ms Sabsy Palanca 1983 PMA President
9:10 to 10:15	Session Six: "Channel Marketing: Discovering New Opportunities for Growth" Mr Tommy B. Lopez Professor Asian Institute of Management
10:15 to 11:20	Session Seven: "Trade Marketing: Outsourcing New Business Opportunities" Mr Jay Bernardo President and CEO JAD Group of Companies
11:20 to 12:25	Session Eight: "Sizzling Marketing Promotions: Hot Button Strategies that Work" Mr Jan Willem Adrian Reg. Mktg. and Product Dev't Manager Spring (Reshaping Global Mail)
12:25 to 12:30	Sponsor's Corner
12:30 to 2:00	Networking Lunch
2:00 to 2:10	Agora Awards 2003 Launch
2:10 to 2:15	Session Chair Opening
2:15 to 3:20	Session Nine: "Predictive Marketing: Data Mining to Optimize Results" Dr. Jose Ramon Albert Statistician V and Chief, Research Division Statistical Research and Training Center
3:20 to 4:25	Session Ten: "Enhancing Profitability: Managing Emergent Products in an Emergent Marketplace" Mr Aniceto B. Fontanilla, President The Asia Pacific Center for Research
4:25 to 4:40	Afternoon Break
4:40 to 5:45	Session Eleven: "The Consummate Marketer: Moving Towards Excellence" Mr Howard Belton Chairman and CEO Unilever Philippines
5:45 to 6:25	Session Twelve: "The Creative Marketer: Where Do You Go from Here?" Mr Henry S. Tenedero President Center for Teaching and Learning Styles
6:25 to 6:30	Session Chair Summary Conference Recap / Closing Raffle Draw

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BUSINESS

DOF urged to defer vehicle tax measure

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WITH the Senate likely to go on recess next week without passing the proposed vehicle excise tax reforms, local assemblers have renewed their appeal to the Department of Finance to defer indefinitely Revenue Regulation 4-2003.

Truck Manufacturers Association of the Philippines chair Frank Nacua said that with only a few days left before Congress would go on recess on June 6, it was doubtful that the senators would approve the vehicle tax bill.

TMAP president Elizabeth Lee said this was why the group had started sending feelers to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho to defer for the fourth time in the last three months RR 4-2003, which was scheduled for implementation on June 6.

RR 4-2003 was issued in February as a transitory measure to tighten the implementation of the 10-seater tax exemption pending Congress' approval of the tax reforms.

The DOF apparently hoped to compel local assemblers into accepting the government's move to shift the tax basis for vehicles from engine size and passenger capacity to sticker price over the unpalatable RR 4-2003 which would remove tax exemptions enjoyed by commercial vehicles (including Asian utility vehicles) that account for 80 percent of total industry sales.

Without a new law on vehicle excise taxes, Lee warned RR 4-2003 would immediately take effect and sales of the country's top assemblers—Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. and Honda Cars Philippines Inc.—would plunge by as much as 50 percent as the price of the best-selling AUV models would increase by 35 percent to 50 percent or beyond the reach of the target buyers.

RR 4-2003 imposes stringent size and space standards on seats that almost all commercial vehicles would not hurdle the 10-seater capacity requirement to enjoy tax exemptions.

Lee said that assemblers were optimistic that the Senate would eventually approve the excise tax reforms considering that the deliberations have been whittled down to two major issues—whether to raise the minimum tax bracket from P500,000 to P750,000 (that would allow basic AUV and pick-up models to get the floor tax rate of 3 percent), and whether to tax the high-end models worth P2 million or more at 50 percent or 100 percent.

"We believe that we just need more time to get the excise tax reforms approved," Lee said. The House of Representatives has already approved the vehicle excise tax bill last March.

If the DOF does not grant the industry's plea for an indefinite suspension, Honda Cars Philippines Inc.—whose CR-V has emerged as the country's best-selling model largely due to its conversion from a compact sport utility vehicle to AUV—said it would seek the court's help to stop RR 4-2003 from taking effect.

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Peace bond trustee seeks beneficiaries

BAGUIO CITY—The Peace and Equity Foundation, the custodian of the P1.2 billion in funds generated through the controversial P10-billion Peace bond issue, has started seeking beneficiaries in the provinces, after reporting here on Monday that the fund had moved only P62 million in the last three years.

Ricardo Torres, the foundation's deputy executive director for operations, said 300 proposals from individuals and organizations were being reviewed by the foundation, a number of them were deemed noteworthy.

These projects included a proposed software system that would link the finances of all cooperatives using automated teller machines.

Torres also said a P5-million loan from the foundation would help a party-list group involving cooperatives connect with non-government organizations. Last week, the foundation also approved an irrigation program for Manabo, Abra.

Marietta Paragas, a board director, said the foundation was trying to break out of the scandal that had discredited what was now the largest local fund source for NGOs.

"Most NGOs have lost their foreign funding sources and that is a trend that is not going away," Paragas said.

Donors like the Ford Foundation have either left or have divested to new business interests, she said.

A Senate investigation of the Peace bonds transactions was never concluded, Paragas said, leaving unresolved the allegations that had put the fund in a bad light.

Sen. John Osmeña pursued allegations that the Peace bond transactions were rigged to favor the Code-NGO because the group was headed by a sister of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

But despite the bad publicity, Paragas said NGOs and cooperatives have since used the peace funds. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Manufacturing output up 7.3%

THE COUNTRY'S manufacturing output rose 7.3 percent from a year earlier in March after a slight contraction in the previous month, the National Statistics Office said yesterday.

The government agency reported double-digit increments in wood products, basic metals, non-electrical machinery, rubber, petroleum, non-metallic minerals, textiles, transport equipment, publishing and food processing.

It revised the February output growth to minus 0.15 percent, compared with the 1.8 percent growth previously reported, but did not explain the revision.

Factories ran at a 78.5-percent capacity for the month, up from 76.5 percent in February.

Industry, of which manufacturing is a key sector, accounts for 32 percent of the Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP), with services contributing 53 percent and agriculture 15 percent. The government is targeting a GDP growth of between 4.2 and 5.2 percent this year. *AFP*

SEC opens call center

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has tapped the services of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to establish a call center facility that will handle the large volume of telephone queries received by the commission from the public daily.

Getting information from the corporate regulator, such as on how to register a company or asking the background of a suspicious investment company, may now be easily made via the SEC hotline—19081 275 732.

The project, called the 1908 Ask SEC, was launched yesterday at the SEC offices.

According to Gary Dujali, senior product manager of PLDT, the call center facility currently has 60 lines that can accommodate 12,000 calls a day. The figure is much higher than the current call handling capacity of the SEC, which is only at 3,000 to 5,000 a month, Dujali said.

Dujali said the hotline service has a flat rate of P10 a minute from any point in the country and at any time of the day. *Michelle V. Remo*

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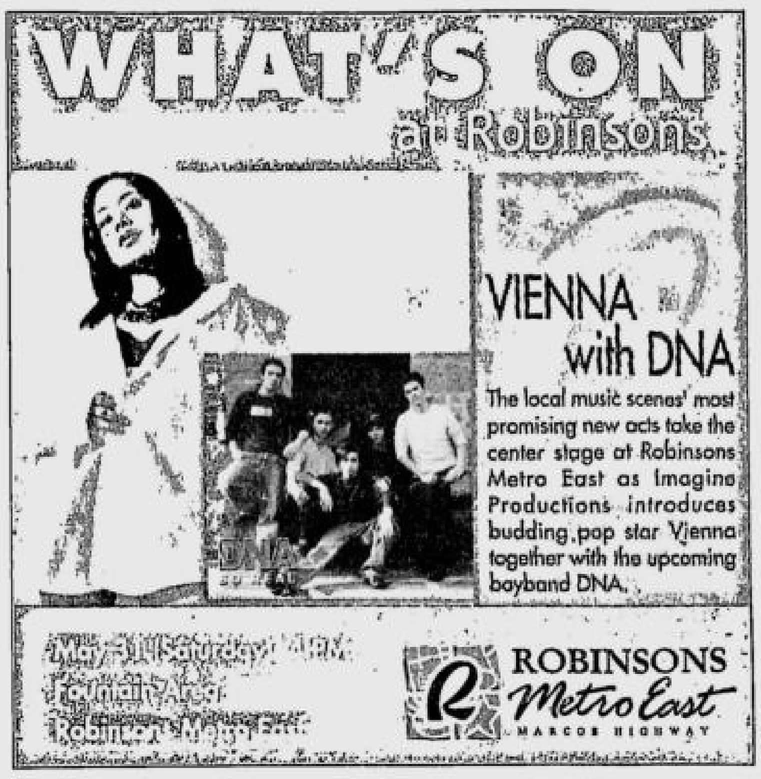
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

Regarding *beauty*

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

THE TIME-HONORED tradition of Santacruzan has a sentimental spot in the hearts of many Filipinos. The event is a joyful commemoration of Queen Helena's discovery of the cross where Jesus was crucified after her son Constantine, emperor of Rome, ordered the excavation of

REGARDING/ C2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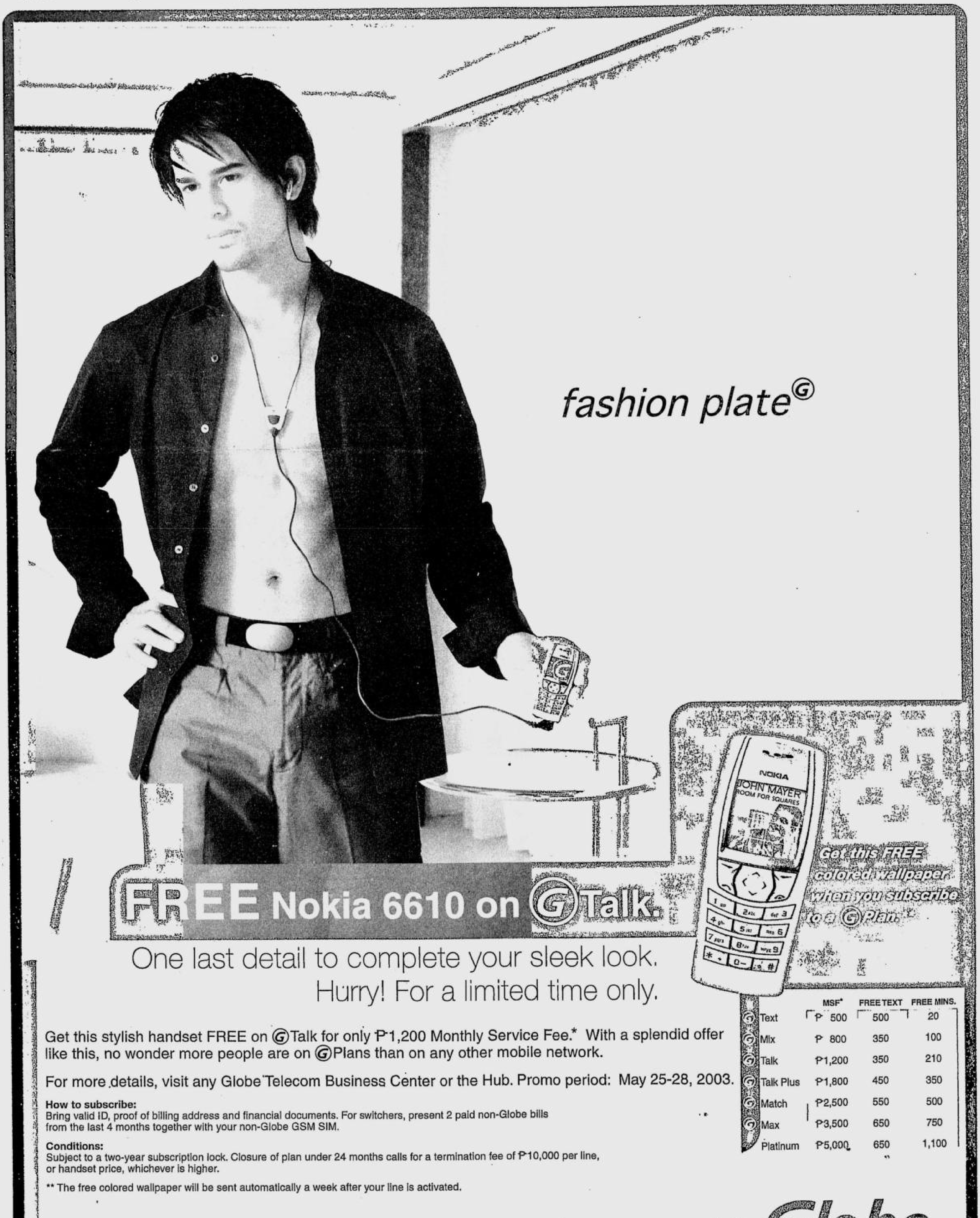
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Regarding beauty

From page C1

Christ's grave.

But in recent years, the Santacruzan has, for the most part, been more of a memory than a practice in many parts of Metro Manila. While still part of the May tradition in the provinces, the event has been confined only to some areas in the metropolis.

The reality of life in the metropolitan area has a lot to do with it. Walking for hours wearing an itchy gown and breathing in the polluted city air is not exactly encouraging. The procession routes are also often clogged with vehicles in the early evenings. And with the economy in a bad shape, the money to be spent on gowns, barong, candles and flowers may just as well go to food, housing and health care.

Perhaps a major reason for the gradual disappearance of the Santacruzan is society's changing standard of beauty. In the past, the most beautiful girl was usually the demure silent Maria Clara type, wooed by suitors willing to defy her parents' wrath. The men can only see her at home and any sort of physical contact was strictly prohibited. Marriage proposals were made to the parents not to the girl herself.

Women wearing pants were also quite rare. Fashion was mainly blouses and skirts.

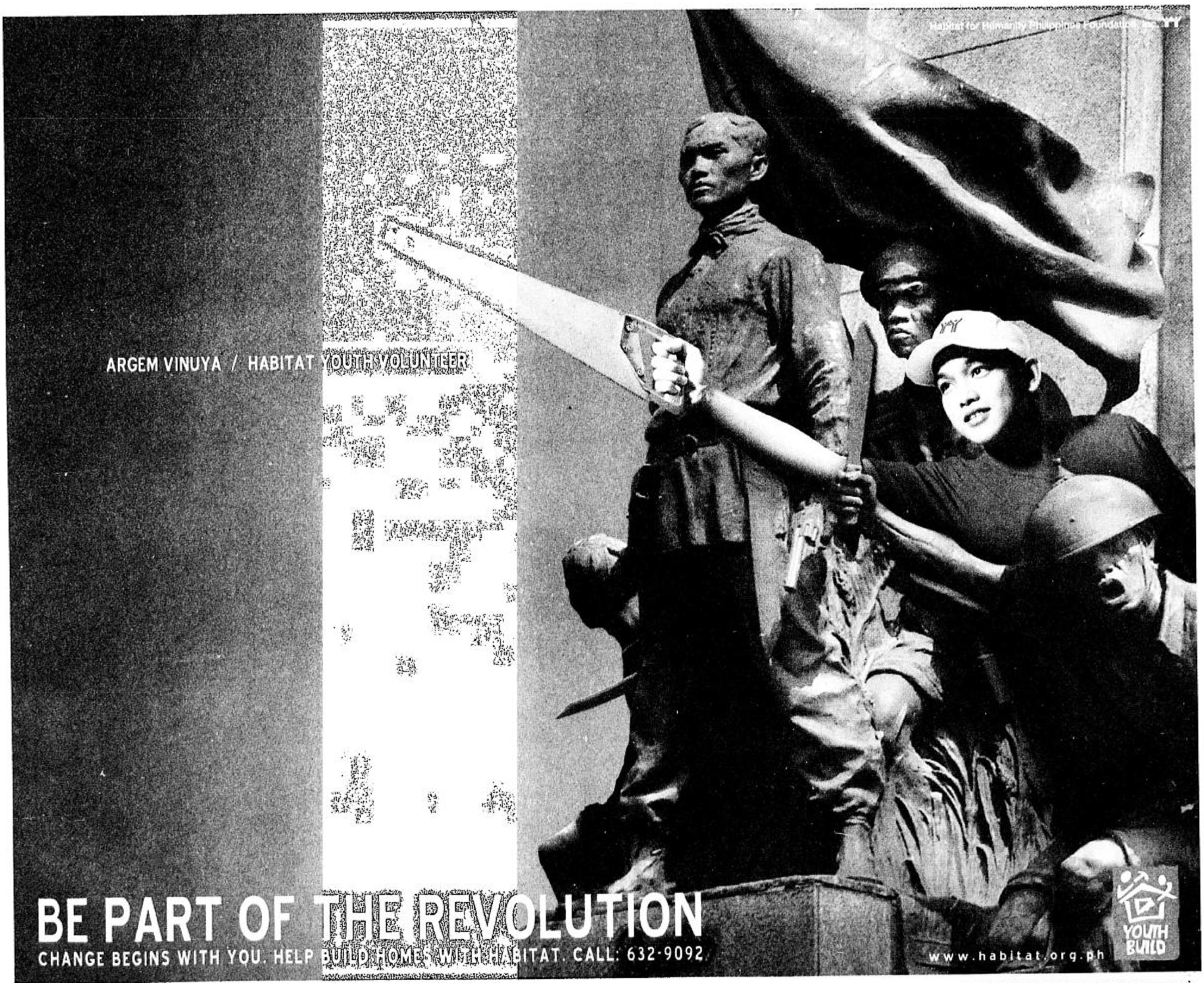
ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

Beauty pageants

The mid-20th century showed more extroverted, if not liberated, women presented to the public through beauty pageants. This might have signaled the start of the gradual demise of the Santacruzan. Instead of parading the beauty of the Filipina around town, it could now be brought to households in different countries through television. Pageants also offered more fashion variety, making them better eye candies for men. Women in swimsuits were started to be seen on TV. And after Gemma Cruz won the Miss International title, the first Filipino woman to win in a global beauty competition, young Filipinas then dreamed of following in her footsteps.

Despite the flak beauty pageants got, they could be credited—their early years at least—with helping expand the standard of beauty. Being physically beautiful, gracious and knowing one's way around the house were no longer enough. A woman had to be intelligent, poised and articulate as well.

That was a good thing. Beauty became something one worked at in terms of learning about the world, instead of just being born with a pretty face.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Models and VJs

But then beauty pageants proliferated and the Pinoys' standard of beauty were muddled once again. It seemed contestants no longer had to be intelligent and articulate.

And with many girls who use pageants as a stepping stone to get into show business end up as sexy stars, one sometimes wished for the return of the golden years of the Santacruzan when girls were praised for their beauty and grace, and not for their breasts.

But then society moved on again from beauty pageants to fashion. Held as standards of attractiveness these days are models and VJs. They have become the high priests and priestesses of beauty and the people who set the trends.

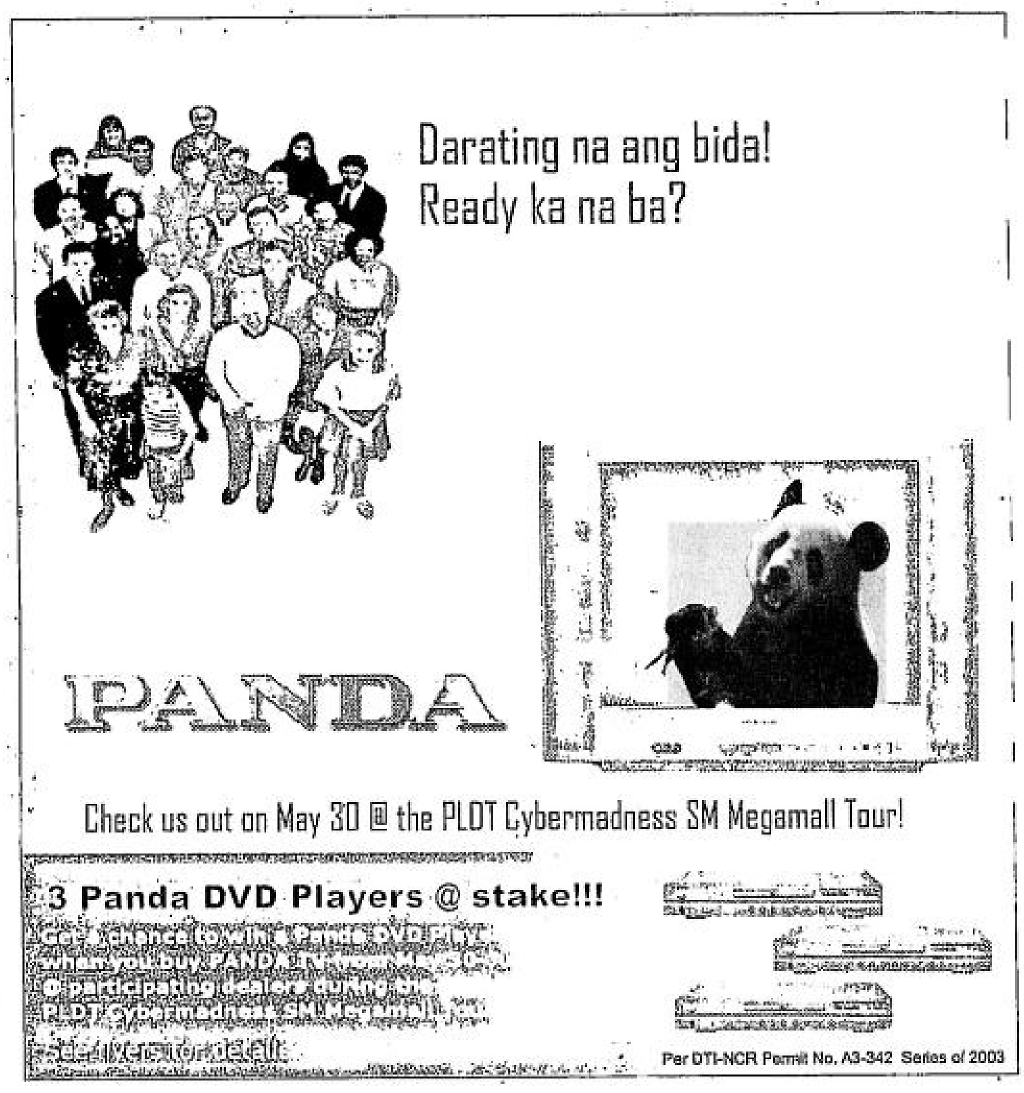
They meet the standards of beauty set in the heydays of the Santacruzan as well as those dictated by beauty pageants. Models essentially have to look good and brains are considered a plus but not exactly a necessity. On the other hand, MTV VJs have to possess beauty, charisma and excellent communication skills in equal measure.

Moreover, unlike the neighborhood parades, models and VJs get a lot of media attention.

Dresses vs. purpose

Perhaps what could prevent the complete disappearance of the Santacruzan tradition is to go back to its original meaning. Perhaps what went wrong in the past was the fact that the procession sometimes became a matter of who had the best and most expensive dress, instead of what it originally stood for: a showcase for the virtues of faith, hope and charity.

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com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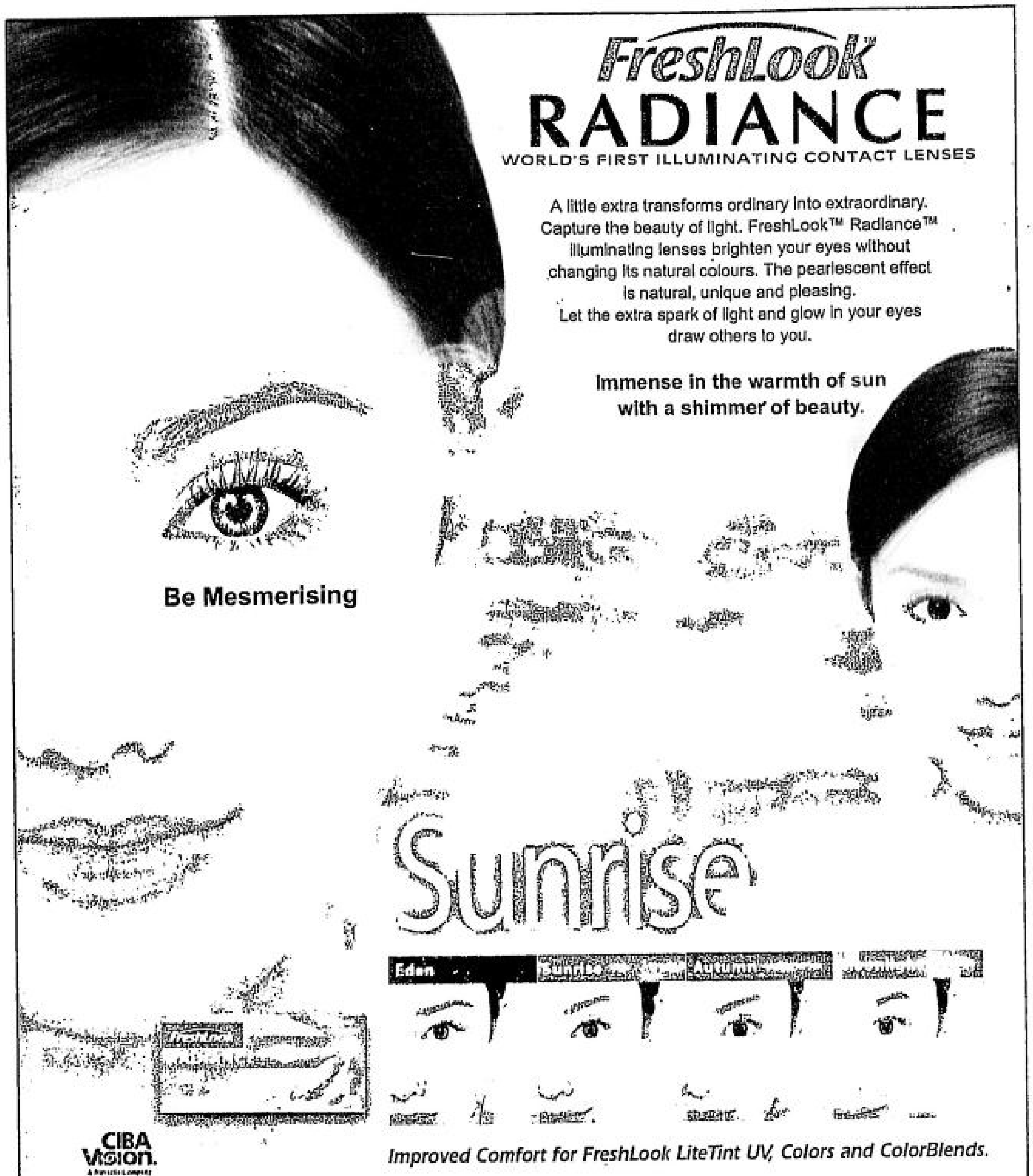
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EDSA Shangri-la	May 19- 31
Rockwell Powerplant	May 19- 31
Festival Mall	May 19- 31
Robinsons Place Manila	May 21-31
Podium	May 19-31

[illegible]	DATES
CAGAYAN DE ORO:	
Gaisano Mall	May 22- June 5
Rosario Arcade	May 23- 24
Corso Guerlani	May 23- 24, 30-31, June 6-7
Xcite	May 23- 24, 30-31, June 6-7
Sports Avenue	May 23
DAVAO:	
Gaisano Mall	May 22- 31
The Venue	May 23-24, 30-31, June 6-7
CEBU:	
Ayala Center Cebu c/o Audionet	May 22- 31
Vudu Lounge	May 23- 24, 30-31
BACOLOD:	
Robinsons	May 23-31

addict	500	600	800	1335	1995	2665	3500
Monthly Service Fee	P500	P600	P800	P1,335	P1,995	P2,665	P3,500
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

addict	500	600	800	1335	1995	2665	3500
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SMS Messaging	P1.00						
MMS Messaging	P5.00						
SMS Info On Demand	P2.50						
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GPRS (per kb)	P0.25						

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Note:
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2. Free Minute allocation will cover calls made from Addict Mobile to SMART, Addict Mobile to other GSM operators and Addict Mobile to non-NDD landline.
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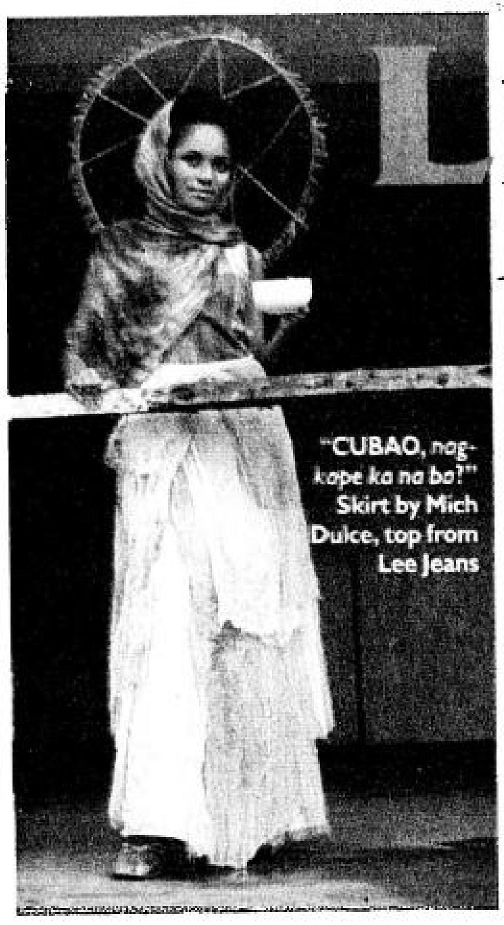
"CUBAO, *nag-kape ka na ba?*" Skirt by Mich Dulce, top from Lee Jeans

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Promo extended until June 5, 2003

The Hip Parade

It may be too early to define the new decade, but there are some things we can't do without these days. Local fashion, for one.

Text and styling by Shahani Gania
Contributor
Photos by August de la Cruz

LADIES and gentlemen, a quick analogy test: If Madonna is to the '80s and Michael Jordan is to the '90s, who should we name for the '00s?

Well, it's a little bit too early to identify the person who would define the new decade. But since the beginning of the new millennium, we've been collecting influences, experiences and stuff that have changed or have become part of our lives over the past three years.

And since it's Santaruzan season once more, we can't help but join the festivities and celebrate the things that make us who we are today.

THE HIP/ D2

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3 pm
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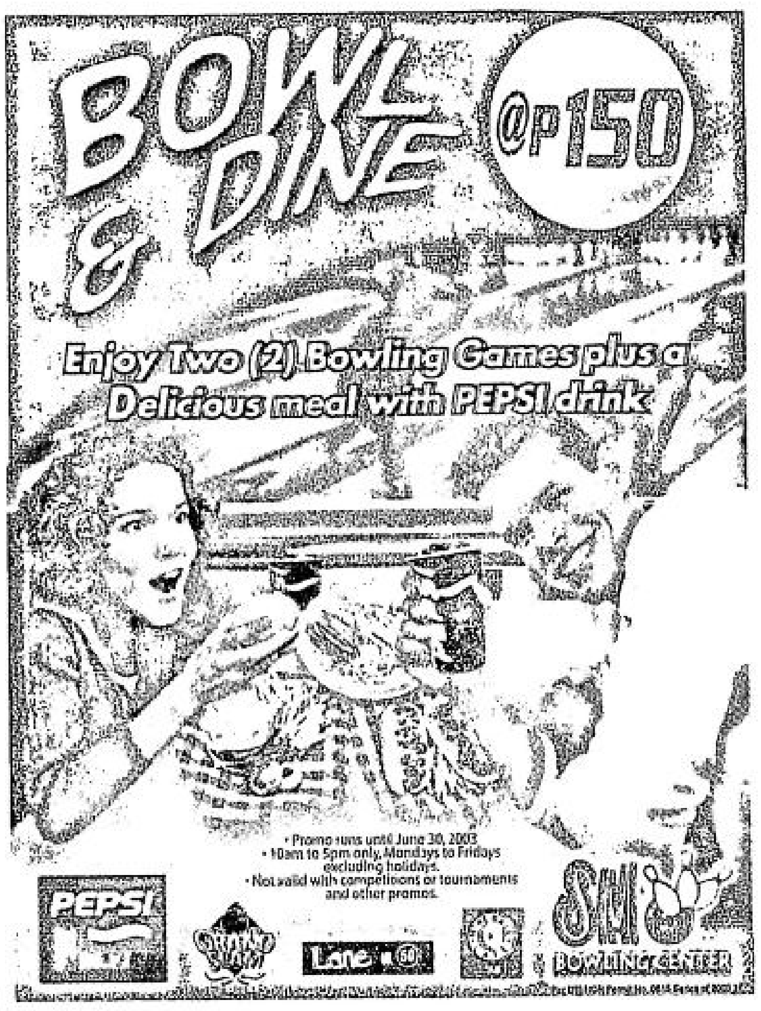
SM SOUTHMALL LAS PIÑAS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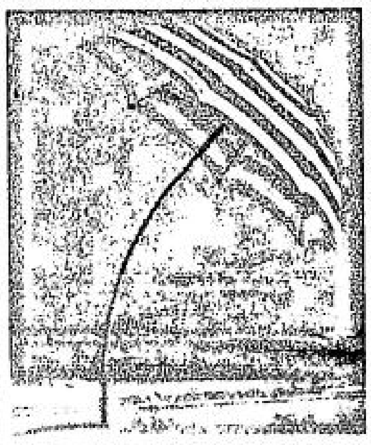

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1211. Series of 2003.

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LOGO THORNS · LOGO GANDA · LOGO DRAGONBALL · LOGO BESO · LOGO SEDUCE
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New Ringtones

Title	Artist	Code
This Side	Nickel Creek	TONE THISSIDE
Come Around	Rhett Miller	TONE COMEARND
Ambon	True Faith	TONE AMBON
Kung Ok Lang Sayo	True Faith	TONE KUNGOK
Skin On Skin	Sarah Connor	TONE SKINON
Gotta Get Through This	Daniel Bedingfield	TONE GOTTAGET
Perfect	True Faith	TONE PERFECT
Shotgun, Baby Baby Bang	True Faith	TONE SHOTGUN
Don't Mess With My Man	Nivea	TONE DONTMESS
Seventeen	Mandy Moore	TONE SEVENTEEN

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Top 10 Ringtones

Title	Artist	Code
1. All I Have	Jennifer Lopez	TONE ALLIHAVE
2. Forevermore	Side A Band	TONE 4EVERMORE
3. In Da Club	50 Cent	TONE INDACLUB
4. Gossip Folks	Missy Elliot	TONE GOSSIP
5. Bakit Papa	Sex Bomb	TONE BAKITPAPA
6. Dilemma	Nelly	TONE DILEMMA
7. The Real Slim Shady	Eminem	TONE SLIMSHADY
8. Cry Me A River	Justin Timberlake	TONE CRYME
9. I Miss You	Aaliyah	TONE IMISS
10. Sway	Big Runga	TONE SWAY

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288
1. Type in KEYWORD. Ex. LOGO PUSSYCAT, PIC SPAG, or TONE AMBON
2. Send to 288.
3. Save upon receiving logo, ringtone, or picture message.

To send a logo, ringtone, or picture message to a friend, type **<keyword> <cell phone number>** and send to 288.
Ex. To send a logo, LOGO PUSSYCAT 09181234567.
To send a tone, TONE AMBON 09181234567.
To send a picture message, PIC SPAG 09181234567.

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1. Type ON HH <your zodiac sign>
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3. You will receive your daily Humorscope reading

For help and other commands, send HH HELP to 288.
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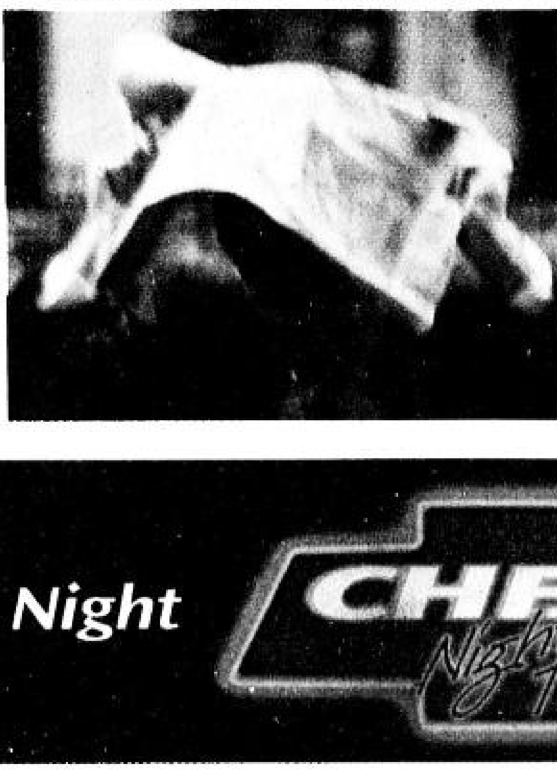

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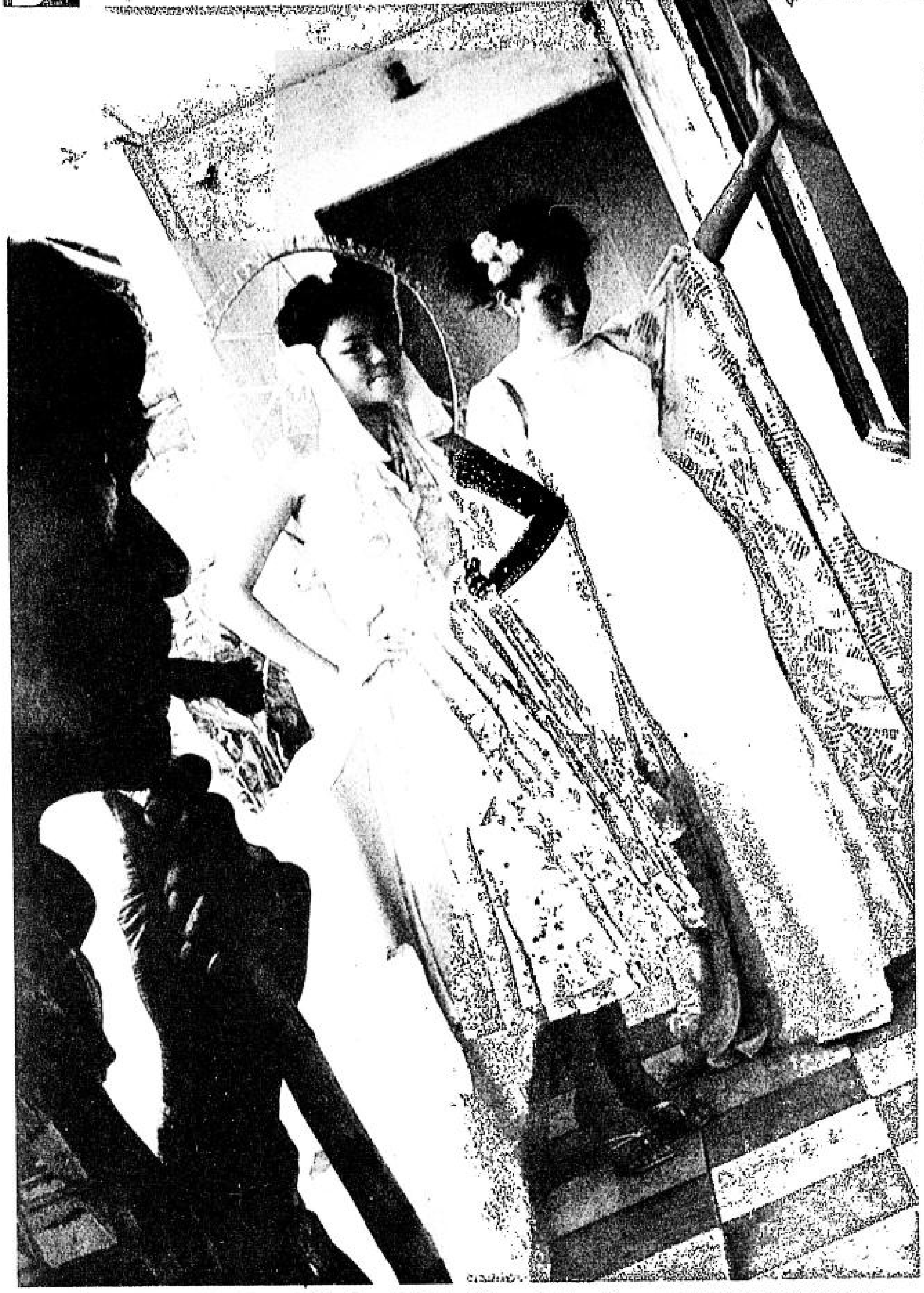
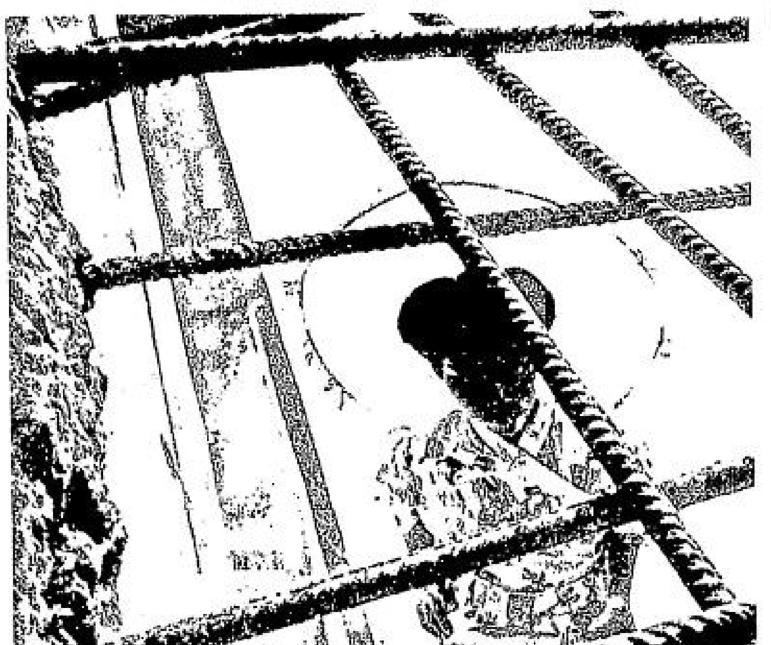


LOCAL FASHION. On Nina: Top and skirts from Folded and Hung. On Liam: Three dresses, from Sari-Sari Store

MAKE LOVE, NOT WAR. On Liam: White dress made of cheesecloth with fake pearl details by LV Punzalan. Black top, stylist's own. On Nina: Brown satin blouse and patchwork skirt by Ivarloski Aseron

The Hip Parade

From page D1



CELLPHONE CRAZE. Kimono blouse and blue miniskirt by X

WHO WANTS TO BE A VJ? On Nina: Blue dress by Ricky Vicencio. Accessories from Human. On Liam: Pink chiffon dress by John Herrera

Music videos

If newscasters were rapping the late-night news like Eminem, we'd probably be dressing like them too. But for now, music videos still remain the no. 1 trendsetter of our age. Music channels such as MTV and MYX provide answers to earth-shaking questions like what to wear, who to look like and who to listen to.

Coffee

It wasn't until establishments such as Starbucks and Seattle's Best came into the picture that coffee became hip and cool. Suddenly, our daily dose of caffeine wasn't just limited to brewed coffee anymore. More choices were offered, and the lines kept getting longer. Coffee shops also became the chic alternative to late-night *gimmicks*, as they provided a more relaxing ambience perfect for fun and perky conversations with friends and acquaintances.

Telecommunications

From three 25-centavo coins fed to a red monster to sending picture messages and videos in a blink, telecommunications have certainly gone a long way. And with the latest amazing innovations in cellular phones, it's getting harder to imagine life without them.

Local fashion

While the '90s became the decade of foreign labels and designer clothes, the beginning of the new millennium proved to be the complete opposite. Local brands now dominate the fashion arena, and fashionistas derive pride in anything that's "Tatak Pinoy." Bench, Bayo, Folded & Hung, Kamiseta—these brands provide us with the stylish and trendy threads we want, and we just can't help but shop!

War and peace

From bold stars to taxi drivers, everyone had something to say about the war, and our generation was no exception. We posted slogans at the gates of our campuses, encouraged and joined protest rallies, and sent information through text and e-mail. Our generation didn't shut up, and that's one thing we should all be proud of. We know what we believe in, how to fight for it, and how to defend our rights.

CLOTHES:
MICH DULCE (0917-8951743); RICKY VICENCIO (0916-3009353); JOHN HERRERA (0916-5486153); LV PUNZALAN (0917-8911415); IVARLOSKI ASERON (0916-5959866)

HAIR AND MAKEUP:
JOEL ACEBUCHE (0917-6204850)

MODELS:
LIAM NAVARRO AND NINA ALIPIO OF UP SAMASKOM

Santacruzan participants brave heavy downpour

Text and photos by Margot Tan
2bUI Correspondent

I CHECKED in at 7 p.m., looking for the parish's Youth Ministry coordinator. There were many people, and the rain was unforgiving. As I entered the Holy Cross Parish, I saw little girls with makeup, wearing white dresses as their mothers were busy fixing their "wings." A number of *sagalas* with their escorts were already present. The embellished arcs of queens found their way from the narrow and slippery streets to the small gym where the program would be held beside the chapel. Anxious bystanders continued to stream in. To answer the lingering question in everyone's mind, a member of the Youth Ministry went to the pulpit and announced that the Santacruzan will definitely push through. "Prayers *lang ang kailangan natin, mga kaibigan*. Prayers *lang*."

The marching band in their blue-and-white satin costumes continued practicing inside the crowded and humid gym. Some people started to become restless, but the crowd was generally happy and patiently waiting.

Fiesta activity

Wet from the downpour, Michelle Panti, who organized the festivities, was finally introduced to this writer. She was pleasantly surprised and a bit shocked when I introduced myself as a PDI correspondent. She never imagined that 2bU! would accept the invitation sent to Pam Pastor through e-mail.

The Youth Ministry of the Holy Cross Parish in Krus na Ligas, Diliman, Quezon City, is in charge of the community's fiesta activities and Santacruzan in May. From Venus to Reina delas Flores, these girls were those who won as Lakambinis in their fiesta's pageant, with the Lakambini 2003 as Emperatriz Elena. Having both the trust and confidence of their parish priest and the Krus na Ligas community, the Youth Ministry has been in charge of handling important and major activities such as this for quite some time now.

SANTACRUZAN/D3

ROSA Mystica, played by Mary Grace Alvarez

URANIA, the Goddess of Land, played by Celeste Estudillo

REINA delas Virgines played by Lena Morales

REINA del Cielo, Queen of Heaven, played by Theres Revilloza

VULCAN, the Goddess of Fire, played by Susan Consuelo Verayin

Santacruzan participants brave heavy downpour

From page D2

When the rain stopped, the organizers began mobilizing the *reynas*, escorts, and other participants. First was Methuselah, bearded and bent with age, portrayed by a young boy named Eleazar Inigo. Candles were distributed to all those who wished to join in the march. People of all ages started coming out of their houses and into the streets, eager to see the children of friends, neighbors and acquaintances. Everyone was holding up their umbrellas, as the drizzle started to spoil the celebra tion.

Instead of going around the community, the organizers chose to lead the parade along the main road. While the rain began to pour, some of the *sagalas* started seeking shelter under shaded areas of the sidewalk. Soaking wet, I joined the brave and carefree souls who continued with the Santacruzan.

Victorious

As the sound of the rain intensified, everyone started cheering even louder, victorious against the beat of the storm. People were smiling, laughing, and enjoying themselves even as the rain took a toll on their well-prepared props and costumes that proved to be vulnerable against the elements. Santacruzan in a small and humble area like Krus na Ligas proved to be more than just a tradition. Santacruzan in Krus na Ligas became a celebration of the community's symbolic triumph against the harsh realities and adversities that loom over their unglamorous and Juan-dela-Cruz lives.

The rain failed to stop the community from thanking the Lord for His blessings. Even as we marched back into the crowded gym disheveled, we were all happy. We were all grateful. The people in attendance remained high in spirits, and together in prayer, we opened the short program to culminate the event with joy in our hearts.

The *sagalas* came in full force—complete with costume jewelry, sparkling tiaras and tailor-made gowns fit for princesses and queens. They were supposed to be the stars of the night, but the heavens had other plans in mind. Weathering the storm, they celebrated in gratefulness and unity.

ladies' shoes

bandolino

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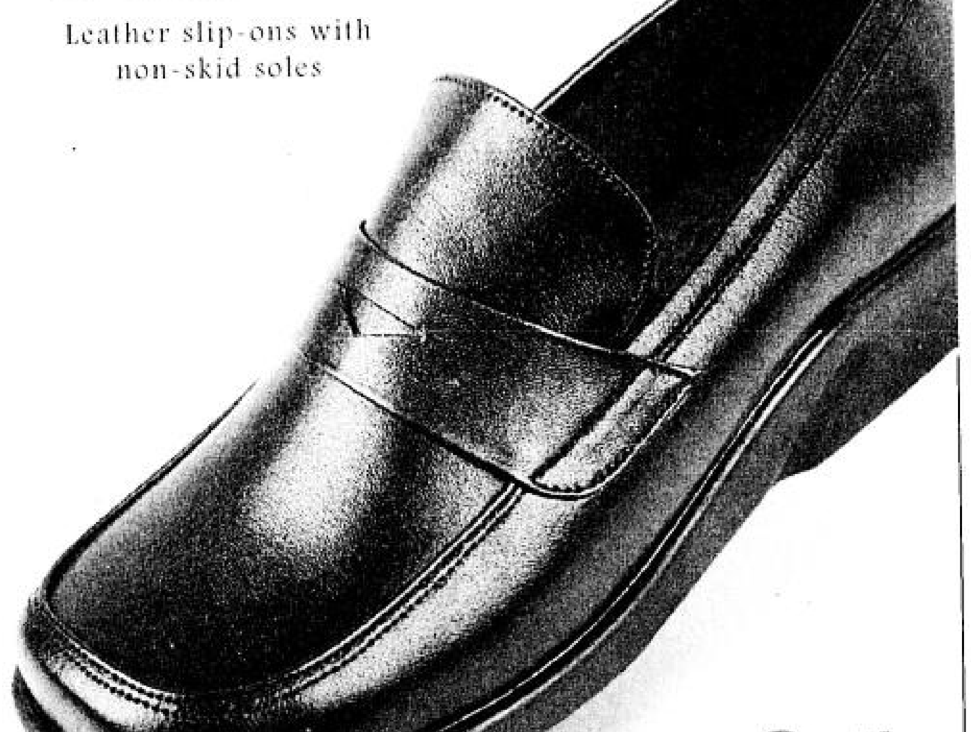
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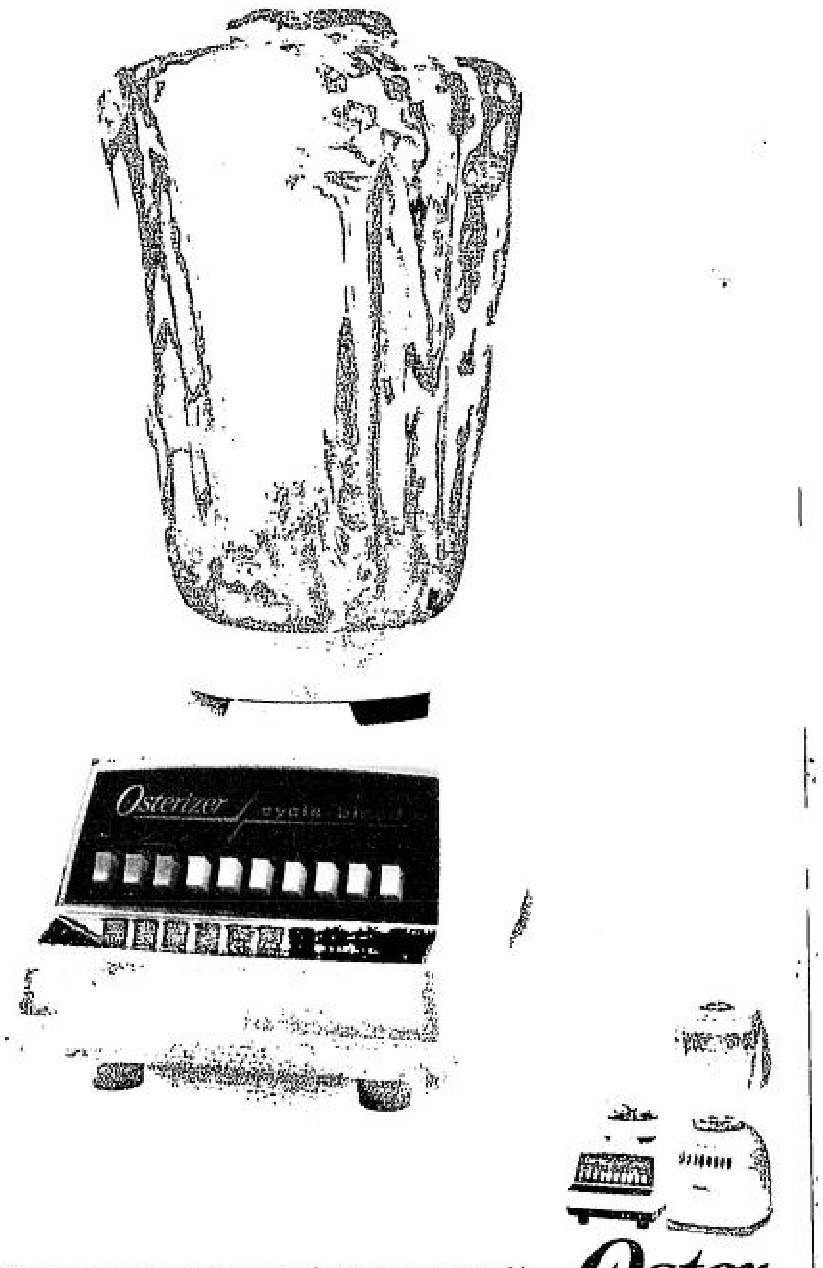

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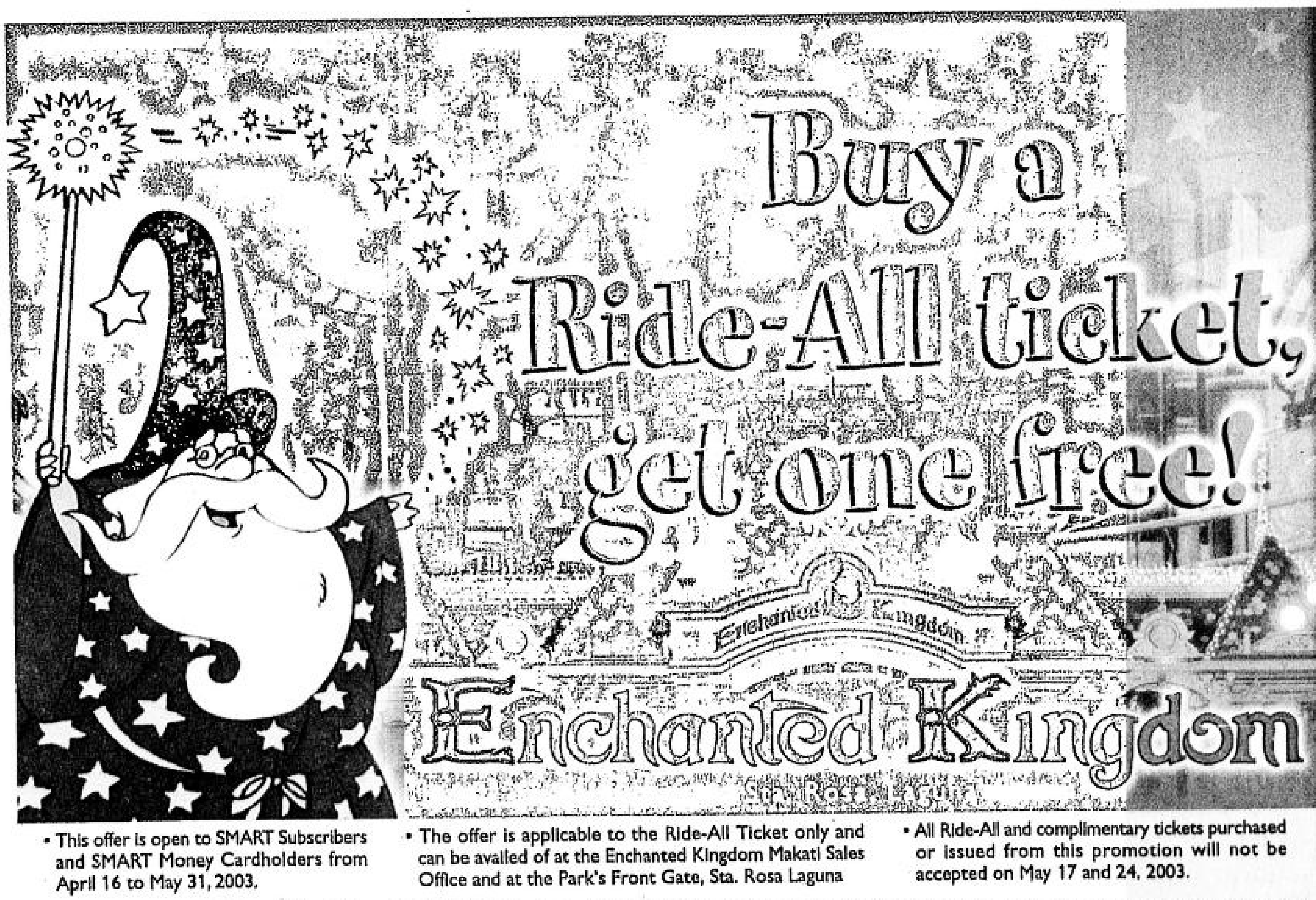

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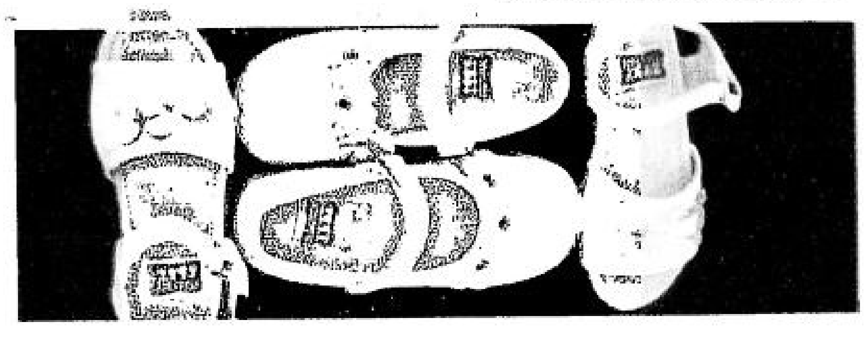
You can also call Enchanted Kingdom at tel. nos. (632) 843-6073 to 78, (632) 830-2111 to 16.

Per DTI-Laguna Permit 5-04-108. Series of 2003.

MEET My Feet children's footwear are available in rubber shoes, sandals, school shoes and party shoes such as white Maryjanes for girls and brown nubuck laceups for boys. Made by Footwear Specialists, Inc., the shoes are reasonably priced and are available at Rustan's Department Store in Makati, Shangri-La Edsa Mall and Alabang, as well as in Kidz Station in Power Plant and Babyland in Glorietta.



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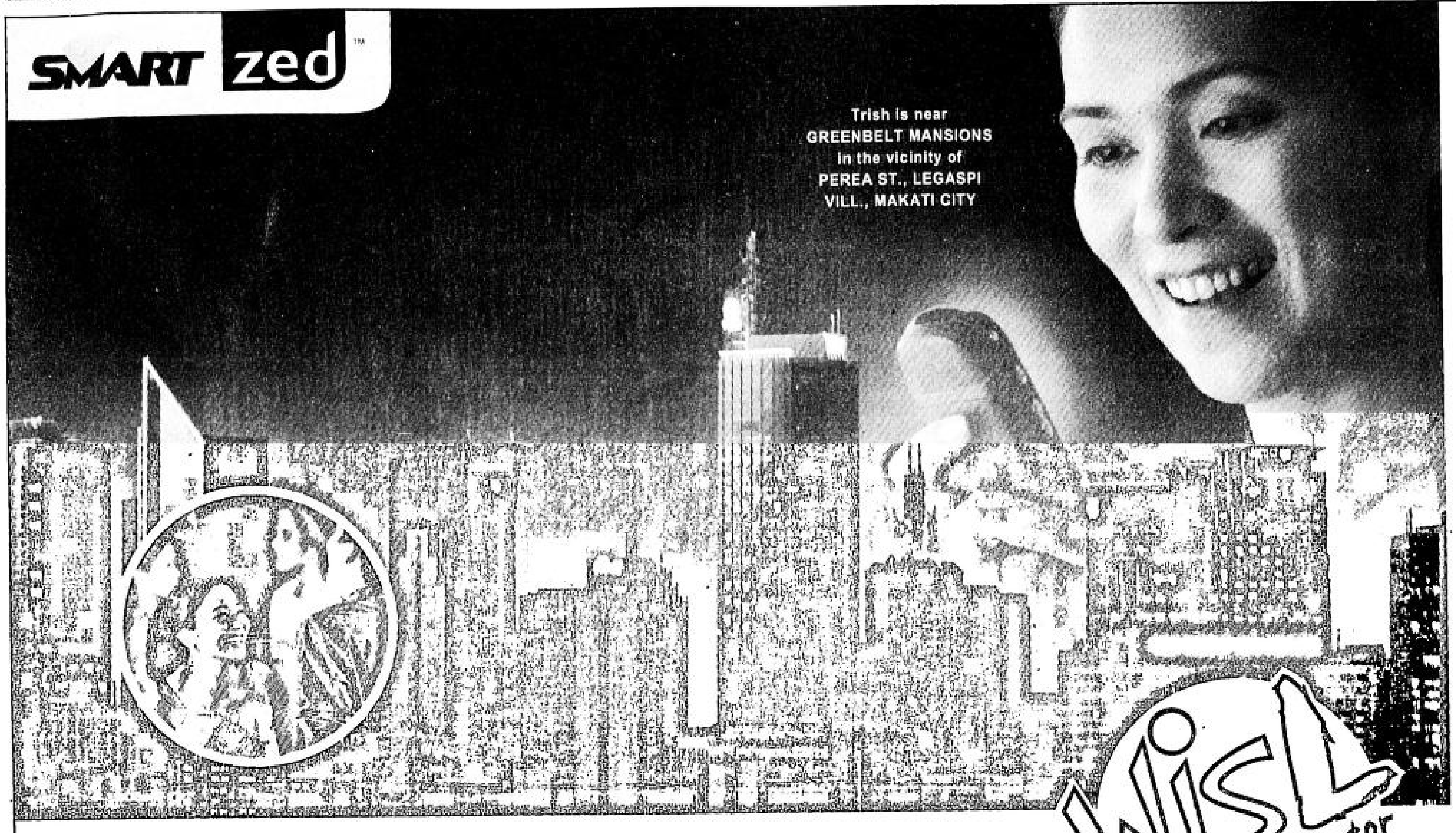

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To turn off SMART zed WISL Person Finder	WIS OFF
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* Password is required only if you set your own password

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0837 Series of 2003.

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'MATRIX RELOADED'

Visually loaded, but materially flimsy

The 'Matrix' sequel is awesome in cinematic technology, but insipid in narrative

By Dexter R. Matilla
Contributor

IT IS quite easy to recognize whether a sci-fi sequel is good or not. Either the film has more visually stimulating action scenes with a better storyline than the original, or it has just either-or and never both. For "Matrix: Reloaded," it is the latter.

Easily one of the most anticipated sequels this year, "Matrix: Reloaded" could have easily become the best summer movie this year. But the Wachowski brothers, producer-directors of the series, appear to have forgotten an important aspect in a great film: a great story.

Some will just dismiss the otherwise insipid narrative of "Matrix: Reloaded" and just watch in awe at what technology can do in the movies. But some won't.

Tougher, smarter

Let's start with the good stuff. Neo (Keanu Reeves), Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss), Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne), and Agent Smith (Hugo Weaving) are back. But this time, their characters have grown tougher, smarter, and more mature. Simply put, all four have been upgraded.

Neo, the One, prophesized by the Oracle (the late Gloria Foster) as the person who will put an end to the war between the humans and the machines, kicks more Agent Smiths with his enhanced skills. Though he may not be able to recognize it, Neo seems slowly gaining the ability to manipulate the Matrix.

His lover, Trinity, on the other hand, continues to stand by Neo's side. She draws strength from Neo, making her "more of a warrior than she was in the first film," according to actress Moss.

Morpheus, meanwhile, continues to stick to his belief in the Oracle's prophecy. His quest to end the war—heightened by Neo's increasing abilities to do the impossible inside the Matrix—is his driving force in this film.

And there's Agent Smith. Undoubtedly the coolest character in the film, Agent Smith survives being deleted in the first film and somehow has found a way to duplicate himself in the sequel.

Some new characters thrown into the Matrix mix worth mentioning are Niobe (Jada Pinkett Smith), Merovingian (Lambert Wilson) and his wife Persephone (Monica Belluci), the Keymaker (Randall Duk Kim) and the Twins (Neil and Adrian Rayment).

Niobe is the tactful captain of the Logos, the smallest and faster hovercraft in Zion. A central figure in the film as a crucial member of the Zion resistance, Niobe "doesn't have faith; she doesn't believe in anything but herself. Her ego is a beast and she's extremely arrogant. The only thing she's connected to is her heart as a soldier," explains Pinkett Smith.

The Merovingian, on the other hand, is a power broker inside the Matrix who is always accompanied by his bodyguards, which include the Twins, and the luscious Persephone.

Meanwhile, Neo, Morpheus, and Trinity search for the Keymaker, a prisoner of the Merovingian who likewise holds the key to "the source."

Overwhelming

And now, the bad stuff. As stated earlier, "Matrix: Reloaded" has the potential to become a very, very, very great film. Everything from the fight scenes and the car chases are incomparable. Unfortunately, the visual aspects overwhelm the story.

Which is not bad, but for a groundbreaking endeavor such as the original "Matrix," "Reloaded" seems a bad offspring.

In the first "Matrix," everything was introduced to us with such subtlety that we could understand the story and complication easily. But in "Reloaded," everything is confusing and even forced.

Take Morpheus, for instance. Morpheus, the calm, cool and collected teacher in Matrix, becomes a babbling idiot every time he speaks.

His speech during the cave gathering in Zion is very laughable; ditto with his speech when the team sets out to help Neo reach "the source."

In the same cave gathering, one can't help but feel the insignificance of the scene where bodies are moving and bouncing around a la a bloodbath in Blade." Though the scene is woven quite well with Neo and Trinity's love scene, it is mercilessly and indulgently over-extended.

Another scene that is very befuddling is when Neo finally meets the Architect. Watching the Architect talk feels like you're watching the movie in mute. You can see the Architect's mouth moving, but you don't understand what he is saying. And that's a big letdown in the film, especially since that scene is supposed to give answers to lingering questions in the audience's minds.

As a whole, "Matrix: Reloaded" is the type of film where, after watching it, the audience does not only leave the theater with whys, but with could-haves, would-haves and should-haves.

This is mainly because "Matrix: Reloaded" has only made it more difficult to understand what the Matrix really is. The Wachowski brothers should realize that "Matrix" fanatics deserve something better than a so-so script. And if they do not make up for it with a spanking conclusion in "Matrix: Revolutions," the third and presumably last part, which opens later this year, then they should just blow themselves up like what they did to the Twins.

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MEDICard's 1st Recognition Day for its Loyal Clients

On our 16th year, we come to acknowledge the *"lasting relationships"* we have built with our clients. Last May 08, we brought recognition to all companies who have joined us through the last 10 and more years building a mutually beneficial relationship geared towards providing members quality healthcare services at one of the country's hippest joints, Hard Rock Cafe in Glorietta, Makati City which is also a valued client since 1997.

1st Recognition Day Awardees

16 YEARS

FAITH INSURANCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES GROUP, INC. (FIMSGI)
[illegible] CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION
NOLI BERNARDO AND ASSOCIATES CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

15 YEARS

ANTISTATIC PRODUCT SPECIALISTS, INC.
CHAIRWORKS, INC.
BELMAC, INC.
CELESTIAL MEDIA SERVICES
CINEMA ADMAKING PROMOTIONS
DRUGMAKERS LABORATORIES, INC.
ELITE GARMENTS
ISSEC INTEGRATED SYSTEM SERVICES, INC. / ISSEC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
AMERICAN BUSINESS DEVICES CORPORATION
NEWBORN FOOD PRODUCTS, INC.
ROWELL LITHOGRAPHY AND METAL CLOSURE, INC.
SATURN CEMENT MARKETING CORPORATION
SYLSIN ENTERPRISES

14 YEARS

ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT FINANCING INSTITUTIONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ADFIAP)
DAY BY DAY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES
LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
NEW TRIBES MISSION
[illegible] METAL RESOURCES
PRUDENTIAL SHIPPING AND MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

13 YEARS

ADVERTISING BOARD OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.
GNP TRADING
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY COLLEGE
INDUSTRIAL ELECTRO-COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

12 YEARS

AYC CONSULTANTS
CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND, INC.
INTERNATIONAL BULK COMMODITIES HANDLING AND TRADING CORPORATION
KODAK PHILIPPINES, LTD.
MCCANN ERICKSON PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC.
PHILIPPINE PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER CORPORATION
ST. BERNARD SERVICES CORPORATION
TIERRA INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION
TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES CORPORATION

11 YEARS

BATHALA MARKETING INDUSTRIES, INC.
BERGESEN D.Y. PHILIPPINES, INC.
CAMPAIGNS AND GREY
CHEMETALL (PHILIPPINES) COMPANY, LTD.
FINETEX ENTERPRISES
IMAGE ONE MULTIMEDIA CORPORATION
IRONCON BUILDERS
KENCAM PHILIPPINES, INC.
PACIFIC LAND AND BUILDING CORP.
PRECY'S BEAUTY CARE CENTER, INC.
YEAR JAN INDUSTRIAL PHILIPPINES, INC.

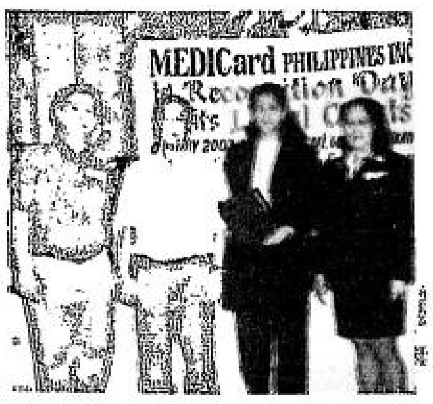
10 YEARS

AGUIRRE PAWNSHOP [illegible]
ARMIDALE CHEMICAL AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION
AYSAC LAW OFFICE
C.F. SHARP GROUP OF COMPANIES
COVENANT ASSURANCE COMPANY, INC.
CROWN PAINT AND COATINGS CORPORATION
DESIGN INTERNATIONAL SELECTIONS, INC.
DOMINICAN TOURS AND TRAVEL AGENCY, INC.
DON BOSCO TECHNICAL COLLEGE
GMA NETWORKS, INC.
LEVERAGE SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGIES
MEGAVENTURES INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT LAUREL BANK

FAITH INSURANCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES GROUP, INC. (FIMSGI) represented by Manager Eve Daplas (third from left) and Eloida Arania receive their plaque of recognition from MEDICard president, Dr. Nicanor Montoya (right) and Marketing and Sales Manager, Voltaire Victoria (left). Faith Insurance has been FAITHFUL since the inception of MEDICard in 1987

NOLI BERNARDO AND ASSOCIATES' Priscila Dizon (MEDICard Account Executive), Mia Yamson (Accounting Officer) and Purchasing Asst., Carmelita Dizon pose with Doc Mon awarding their 16-year plaque of recognition

BELMAC, INC.'s administration staffs Ferdinand Reyes and Marissa Santiagudo receive their plaque for 15 years of continuous membership from Doc Mon and Revenue Management Sr. Manager, Glennford Mirasol (left).


CELESTIAL MEDIA SERVICES represented by Beiby Bacani (Exec. Asst.) and Raymond Andaya (Billing-In-Charge) receive their 15-year plaque from Dr Nicky Montoya, MEDICard Medical Director (left) and Rosemarie Alipio (right), MEDICard Claims and Reimbursement Manager

Evangeline Del Mundo (3rd from left), Executive Vice President of DRUGMAKERS LABORATORIES, INC., member for 15 years poses with MEDICard account officer, Leonor Edralin, Luis Montoya, MEDICard EVP & GM (left) and Dr. Nicky Montoya (right)

Henry Taneo, MEDICard Corporate Accounts Manager receives in behalf of ELITE GARMENTS (member since 1988), GNP TRADING (member since 1990), PACIFIC LAND AND BUILDING CORP. and PRECY'S BEAUTY CARE CENTER, INC. (members since 1992) their plaques of recognition

ISSEC. VP for Administration, Norma Baqui (3rd from left) and Accounting Supervisor, Marissa Macarubo receive their plaque for 15 loyal-years of membership from Doc Nicky together with Marlyn Delgado (left), MEDICard Corp. Accounts Manager

Rosita Pua (center), Director of NEWBORN FOOD PRODUCTS, INC. and Tess Publico is awarded their plaque of recognition for continued patronage to MEDICard since 1988

Doc Mon shakes hands with Marissa Silvano, ROWELL LITHOGRAPY AND METAL CLOSURE, INC. Asst. Finance Manager as they pose with Susan Zulueta (MEDICard Corp. Accounts Manager) as a 15-year awardee

Sylvia Sinjian (MEDICard Corporate Account Manager) receives in behalf of SYLSIN ENTERPRISES (member since 1988), INDUSTRIAL ELECTRO-COMMUNICATIONS, INC. (member since 1990) and COMMODITIES HANDLING AND TRADING (member since 1991) their awards for continued trust to MEDICard's healthcare program

ADFIAP's Lory Cervantes (Sr. Accounting Head) receives her company's plaque of recognition from LSM. ADFIAP has been a MEDICard member since 1989.

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES' Dr. Teofista Policarpio (Head-Medical Clinic) receives their plaque for 14 years of continued membership from Doc Mon

NEW TRIBES MISSION's Timothy Castagna and wife Peggy receive a simple display of gratitude from MEDICard for entrusting their health to the HMO for the last 14 years.

PRUDENTIAL SHIPPING AND MANAGEMENT CORP's President, Teresita Piolo, Patricia Iglesias (Treasurer) and Rosario Domingo (Corp. Sec.) with LSM. Prudential Shipping joined MEDICard in 1989.

AYC CONSULTANTS, INC.'s Liberty Panis (Finance Manager) and Rolly Alvarez (Research Supervisor) receive their award from Doc Mon and Freda Bongalon (left), MEDICard HR Manager

KODAK PHILIPPINES, LTD. represented by HR. Asst. Cherry Fulgencio (left) receives their plaque of recognition from Doc Mon and Pia Reyes (MEDICard Corp. Accounts Manager)

PHIL. DAILY INQUIRER (PDI) joined MEDICard in 1991. Receiving their loyalty award (from R-L) are Jessie Francis Rebustillo (Corp.-HR Services Head), Rose Viray (Compensation Head) and Sherman Tan (HR Management Services Head)

Karen Jose (MEDICard Corp. Accounts Manager) receives the plaque of recognition in behalf of MCCANN ERICKSON PHILIPPINES, a corporate member since 1991

PHIL. PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER CORP. represented by Tom Gubani (3rd from left) receive their 12-year award from Doc Mon, Miriam Villafuerte (Asst. Manager-Mktg. Services) and Coco Cervantes (Mktg. Asst.)

Maria Hile (VP) with Corazon Moncada (Exec. Asst.) from TIERRA INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CORP. (member since 1991) are joined by Ruben Mendoza (MEDICard Corporate Account Manager) and Doc Mon in receiving their plaque.

BATHALA MARKETING INDUSTRIES, INC. 's Nathan Andaya, HRD Manager (3rd from left) and Robert Batahan (Manager, Paint Protection Dent Removal) pose with Terry De Guzman, President of TSG Health and Life Insurance Brokers and Doc Mon as they receive their plaque of recognition for 11 years of continued patronage.

BERGESEN D.Y. PHILS., INC.'s Miriam Basco (Secretary to the VP) receive their recognition plaque award for being loyal MEDICard clients since 1992 from Doc Mon and Glennford Mirasol

Renato Estrella, Logistics Supervisor of CHEMETALL (PHILS.) CO., LTD. (member since 1992) receives their award from Doc Mon and Julia Domine (MEDICard Sr. Manager for Provider Relations)

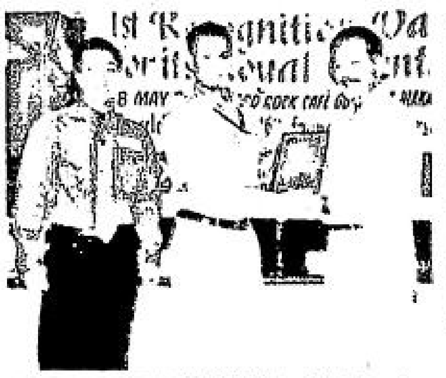


IMAGE ONE MULTIMEDIA CORP.'s Mark Aspiras, Technical Supervisor receives the plaque of recognition from Doc Mon and Voltaire Victoria for 11 years of continued membership

IRONCON BUILDERS' Comptroller Imelda Espinosa (center) is joined by MEDICard Account Manager Marieta Jamilano and Doc Mon during the awarding of their 11-year plaque of recognition

Feliza Dacumas, YEAR JAN INDUSTRIAL PHILS., INC.'s personnel manager poses with Doc Mon and Miriam Villafuerte for 11 years of partnership aimed towards quality healthcare management

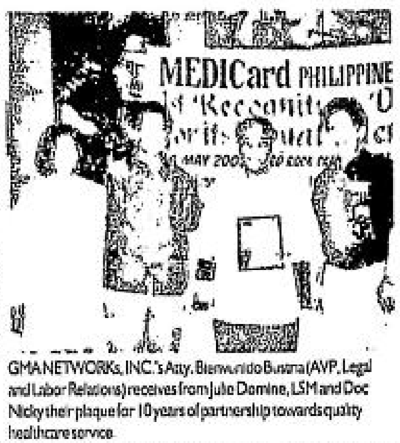
ARMIDALE CHEMICAL AND INDUSTRIAL CORP.'s Asst. General Manager Evangeline Domingo and Emeth Toralba (Payable Supervisor) receive their 10-year loyalty award from LSM and Doc Nicky

1993 corporate member C.F. SHARP GROUP OF COMPANIES represented by Samuel Rosales (VP-HR) and Kevin Alombro (O.D. Officer) receive their plaque from MEDICard together with Leng Reyes of Trinity Life and Health Insurance Brokers

Cecilia Guarlo (Exec. Asst.) and Helen Villegas (Administration Officer) COVENANT ASSURANCE CO., INC. present their plaque for 10 years of loyal membership with Susan Zulueta, LSM and Doc Nicky

CROWN PAINT AND COATINGS CORP.'s Jonathan Tanjanco, VP for Marketing in a shoot with LSM, Doc Nicky and Bonetto Cui (MEDICard Accounts Manager)

10-year membership awardee, DOMINICAN TOURS represented by Anacleto Lontoc (Asst. Accountant) receives the plaque from MEDICard executives and Pia Reyes


GMA NETWORKS, INC.'s Atty. Bienvenido Busana (AVP, Legal and Labor Relations) receives from Julie Domine, LSM and Doc Nicky their plaque for 10 years of partnership towards quality healthcare service

"Experience is Our Strength"

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MEDICard PHILIPP

SPECIAL 16TH ANNIVERSARY SUPPLEMENT

Messages

I convey my most cordial felicitations to **MEDICard PHILIPPINES INC.** as you celebrate your *16th Founding Anniversary.*

I commend your medical organization for your constant dedication in providing our people with total quality health care. Your partnership with the government in promoting the well-being of our countrymen is truly commendable.

In our continuing efforts to make Filipinos live healthy and productive lives, we constantly upgrade the service we provide our people. Your innovative undertakings complement our government's health care programs. By reaching out to our countrymen in dire need, you are helping our Administration hasten the day when every Filipino will have access to proper health care.

May this occasion inspire all of you to accomplish more for the welfare of your members, your community and your country.

More power and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of **MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC.** on the celebration of your 16th Founding Anniversary.

Your long years of proven commitment in providing quality health care services has provided substantial and meaningful benefits to your members. It is in pursuance with the vision of the Philippine healthcare system to secure the well being of the people by providing them with modern and specialized health and medical services.

Let me congratulate you on your special occasion for having achieved long and fruitful years of meritorious service to the public. May your organization continue to serve quality healthcare services to your constituents and provide greater access to quality healthcare.

May the significance of this occasion inspire and motivate our health providers to actively respond to the challenges of the future. Once again, congratulations and I salute your organization for this effort.

MANUEL DAYRIT MD, MSc
Secretary of Health
Republic of the Philippines

It's MEDICard's 16th Founding Anniversary!

We celebrate our 16th year with a list of noteworthy achievements. We have shown that we can move ahead of the rest and make our mark in the Philippine managed healthcare industry.

Thank you for having been part of our success, from our founding in 1987 to becoming one of the largest health maintenance organizations (HMOs) in the country today.

Armed with the confidence and trust that you have afforded us, we incessantly dedicate ourselves to continue to provide you the quality of service that would exceed your expectations. We pledge to commit ourselves to the highest standard of professionalism. We also recognize our pivotal role in contributing to the welfare and health of society.

The journey that you have taken with us from 1987 has been truly fruitful and most fulfilling. On our 16th year, let us celebrate the partnership, which we have nurtured throughout the past years as we look forward to more years of serving your healthcare needs.

In behalf of our board of directors and management team, I reiterate our sincerest thanks and salutations.

Cheers to our 16 years!

NICANOR D. MONTOYA, MD
President
MEDICard PHILIPPINES INC.

Helping build

Text by Marlet D. Salazar
Photos by Egay Montaña

THEY could have opted for a lavish dinner party in a posh hotel garbed in signature suits and dresses; it's their 16th anniversary after all. But management and employees of MEDICard PHILIPPINES wished for something different; something that can warm other people's hearts as well as theirs.

Armed with sheer determination and willingness to help, volunteers from the company's pool of hardworking staff trooped to Taguig where the first medium-rise building (MRB) project of the Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP) will soon rise.

Led by MEDICard president Dr. Nicanor Montoya, executive vice president and general manager Luis Montoya, medical director Dr. Nicky Montoya, treasurer and assistant to the EVP and GM Aristotle Salas, vice president and controller Elizabeth Laqui and members of the management committee (MANCOM), the more than a hundred employees from different departments extended their time and efforts to help build a house.

Donation

Dubbed "MEDICard PHILIPPINES INC.'S 16th Anniversary Build: A MEDICard-Volunteers Build for Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation Inc." also saw the health maintenance organization (HMO) donating P120,000 for the HFHP Taguig affiliate, which was received by HFHP representatives Warren Buongen, National Capital Region area operations director, Ashelle Paras-Buhay, resource development officer, Ely Bisco, site project administrator, and Beth Quijano, European Union MRB project head in the Philippines.

MEDICard PHILIPPINES was established in 1987 by medical practitioners who understood the people's dilemma when it comes to health care expenses. Today, from the 70 million Filipinos, 2.8 percent or roughly 2 million individuals are enrolled in HMOs which principally caters to middle and low income earners.

It has grown to be one of the premier HMOs in the country. Based on the past community outreach programs MEDICard initiated in the past years, it looks like the blessings are endlessly pouring in. This HMO provides a comprehensive health care program for its members which include hospital confinement benefits, outpatient, preventive health care, dental health care and emergency services.

MEDICard President, Dr. Nicanor Montoya (extreme right) with Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya (2nd from right), and EVP and GM, Luis Montoya (with pick axe) while digging at the Habitat for Humanity Taguig-MRB Site

HFHP, on the other hand, has been committed to eradicate poverty housing in the country. It is a non-profit ecumenical Christian housing ministry established in 1988. It is one of the affiliates of HFH International. Locally, HFHP has also formed affiliates from different local governments.

The site MEDICard is fortunate to stamp their contribution measures more than 7,000 square meters. Volunteers are helping to construct two buildings, which will have 12 units each. Unit area measures 45 square meters. The lot was donated by Taguig local government.

The day started with a brief orientation from site engineer Rio Ravas, followed by architect Angel Franco who divided the volunteers into groups and assigned them tasks to speed up the construction.

Unmistakable excitement was painted on the faces of MEDICard employees who came to the assembly place in Makati as early as 5:30 a.m. The men, as expected, immediately took on the more difficult jobs of digging and shoveling; while the female bunch, unmindful of the scorching heat of the morning sun, had fun pouring out cement on the concrete interlocking blocks (CIB)and compressed earth blocks. These blocks are specially designed by the Habitat technology experts for its housing projects. Skilled construction workers assisted the volunteers.

The rising temperature didn't seem to deter them from having fun. Amid the grueling ground digging, a group of male volunteers were cheering at each other. Others are throwing jokes and were like small children kidding around. Imagine an administrative assistant supervisor sweating it out and exerting all his energy in contrast to his desk work in the office. Still, there were smiles on their faces in the middle of the construction site. One even said that they have high respects for construction workers now that they have experienced the kind of work they do.

Luis Montoya very well expressed the sentiments of the people. "We wanted to do something lasting," Montoya said. "After the house is built, we see something concrete that we all helped to build." He is also very pleased with the huge turnout of volunteers.

In the past, MEDICard frequently holds medical missions in poverty-stricken communities in the metro. Most participants in those outreach activities were from the medical staff of the company. This time around, more people were involved, personnel from different departments were able to pitch in.

Beneficiaries or homepartners as they are commonly addressed also have their way of pitching in for their future homes. To qualify, each homepartner family pledges to put in at least 400 hours of labor called "sweat equity" into the construction of their own and other families' housing. This process as well as volunteering from individuals and corporate organizations saves on labor costs.

"It's a nice feeling seeing these people who used to work in their air-conditioned rooms work so hard on manual labor," Montoya said. "I think, more than myself, it's them who are enjoying this different activity."

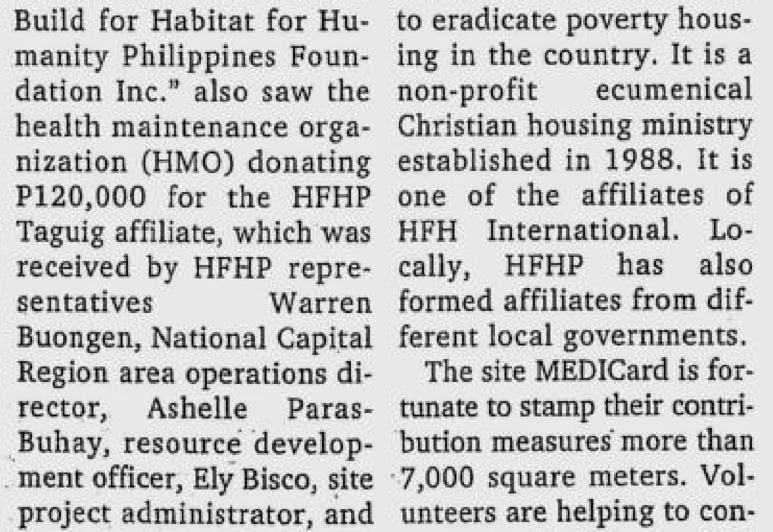
MEDICard plans to do more social civic duties quarterly or as often as possible. Being one of the pioneers in the HMO industry, this is their way of sharing their blessings to the less fortunate.

"And deep inside, there is a feeling of satisfaction," he said.

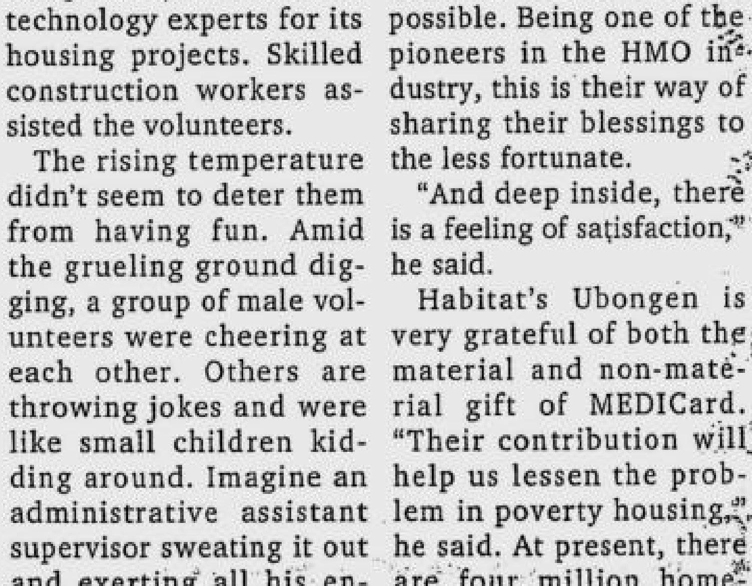
Habitat's Ubongen is very grateful of both the material and non-material gift of MEDICard. "Their contribution will help us lessen the problem in poverty housing," he said. At present, there are four million homeless Filipinos.

"We would like everybody to help," Ubongen said. And this move of MEDICard shows an example worthy of emulation by the corporate community.

"We're fortunate they chose Habitat for Humanity," Buhay said. She personally hopes this endeavor and partnership with the company will continue when the site becomes a community someday.



MEDICard volunteers work hand-in-hand with Habitat home [illegible]



MEDICard volunteers [illegible]

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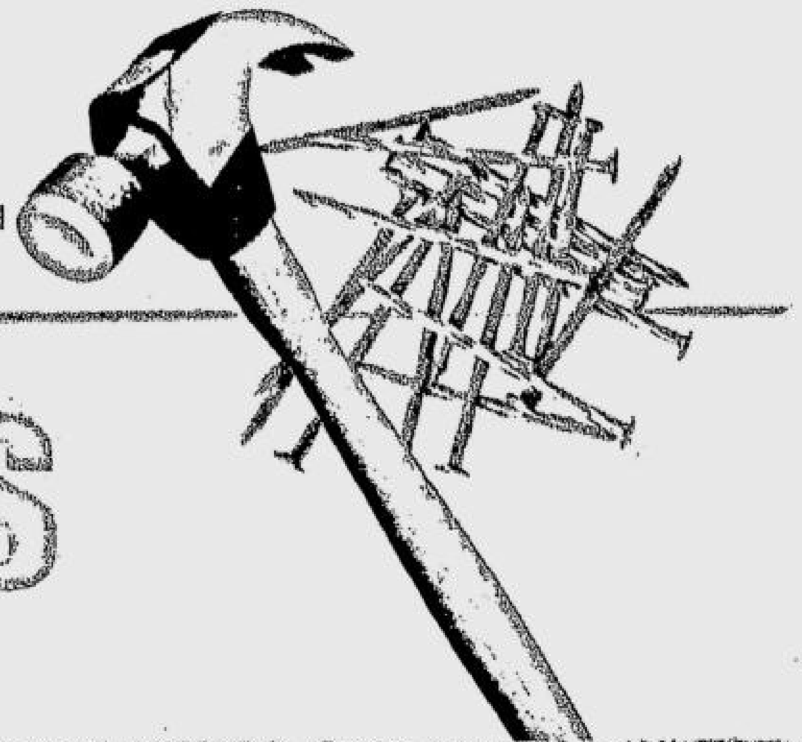
INES, INC.



dreams

Light and durable concrete interlocking blocks (CIB) are easy burden for volunteers trudging to the construction site from the warehouse

A pledge not only of a "labor of love", but financial support as well. From left, MEDICard's Voltaire Victoria (Marketing and Sales Manager), Aristotle Salas (Treasurer and Assistant to EVP and GM), Luis Montoya (EVP and GM) and Dr. Nicanor Montoya (President) with HFHP's Ely Bisco (Site Project Administator), Fernando Ocampo (President, Taguig Affiliate), Beth Quijano (European Union MRB project head), Warren Buongen (NCR Area Operations Division) and Ashelle Buhay (Resource Development Officer)

With grins and smiles is how MEDICard employees faced the task of preparing the correct mixture of sand, cement and water

CIB are light and weight-bearing, making it a less-expensive alternative to conventional hollow blocks

Volunteers get quick instructions from a skilled worker in making specially designed CIB

All get a deeper understanding of Habitat for Humanity and the work they are about to do during the construction orientation from the foundation's Resource Development Officer Ashelle Buhay

Armed with sheer determination and willingness to help, volunteers from the company's pool of hardworking staff trooped to Taguig where the first medium-rise building (MRB) project of the Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP) will soon rise.

MEDICard employee-volunteers take a pose during their morning break

Special thanks to: Gatorade TOLL FREE ABBOTT NUTRA CLEAR PURIFIED FLAVORED DRINKING WATER

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New MEDICard corporate accounts

PLDT
MEDICard

PLDT recently signed with MEDICard a two-year healthcare agreement for its "retirees" under the company's special Manpower Reduction Program. (Seated L-R) Noemisio Molina (EVP & COO, Gotuaco Del Rosario), Ricky P. Vargas (SVP-HROD, PLDT), Dr. Nicanor D. Montoya (President, MEDICard) and Luis S. Montoya (EVP & GM, MEDICard). (Standing L-R) Voltaire R. Victoria (Mktg. and Sales Manager, MEDICard), Miriam M. Villafuerte (Asst. Manager-Mktg. Services, MEDICard), Grace M. Lapitan (AVP-HR, PLDT), Gloria R. Remigio (Sr. Manager-HR, PLDT), Precie G. Bañes (VP and EB Manager, GRA), and Theresa Maniego (EB Supervisor, GRA).

FRASER PLACE SERVICED RESIDENCES signed last May 22 its corporate healthcare program with MEDICard. Present during the affair were (seated L-R) Luis Montoya (MEDICard EVP and GM), Dr. Nicanor Montoya (MEDICard President), Carlo Gomez (Fraser GM) and Lily Santos (Fraser Financial Controller). (Standing L-R) MEDICard's Voltaire Victoria (Marketing and Sales Manager), Miriam Villafuerte (Asst. Manager-Marketing Services) and Marites Antonio (Account Manager), Fraser's Angel Pentinio (Operations Manager), Melissa Justo (Director for Sales), Gertie Tarin (Executive Housekeeper) and Henry Pingol (HR Executive).

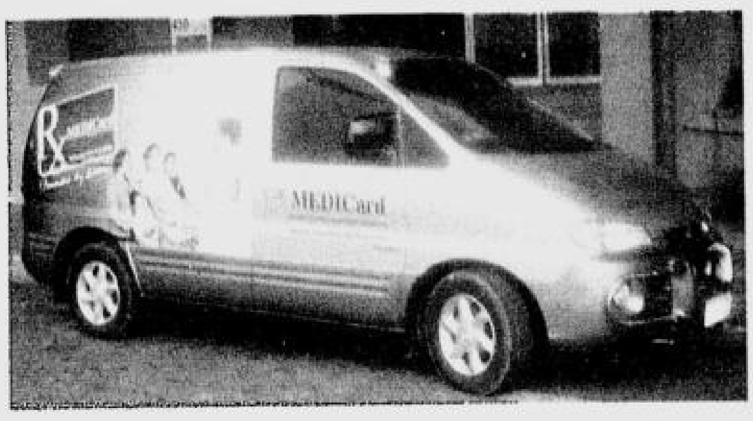
On its 16th Year
MEDICard

MEDICard Ad in GMA shows.

Beginning its 16th anniversary day May 15, MEDICard started to air in "Kapuso Channel" GMA-7 its opening and closing billboard ads within the network's top rating shows, Unang Hirit, Front Page and Saksi. With the TV ads, the HMO aims to strengthen the "branding" of MEDICard as one of the country's ace provider of managed healthcare. The ad is seen in Unang Hirit from Mondays to Thrusdays, Frontpage every Mondays and Wednesdays and every Friday in Saksi.

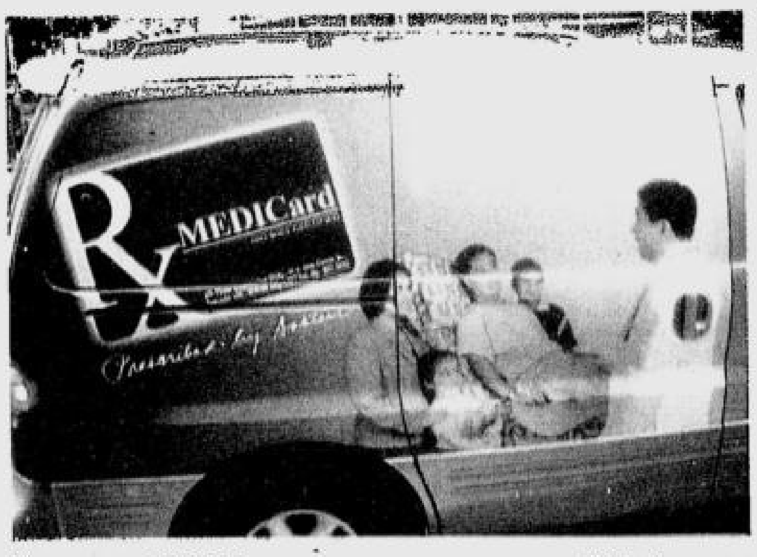
MEDICard Introduces its New Ad Concept

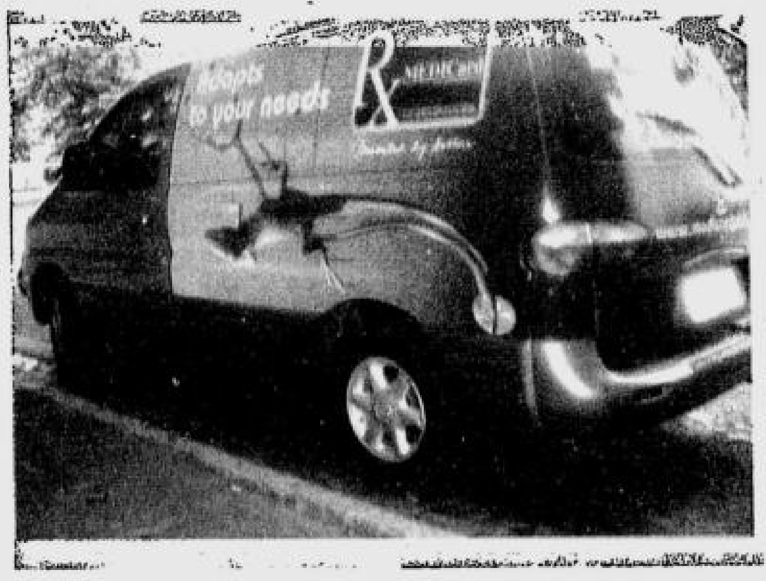
MEDICard joins the newest trend in advertising, transit ads by turning its Hyundai Starex service van to a graphics laden moving billboard.

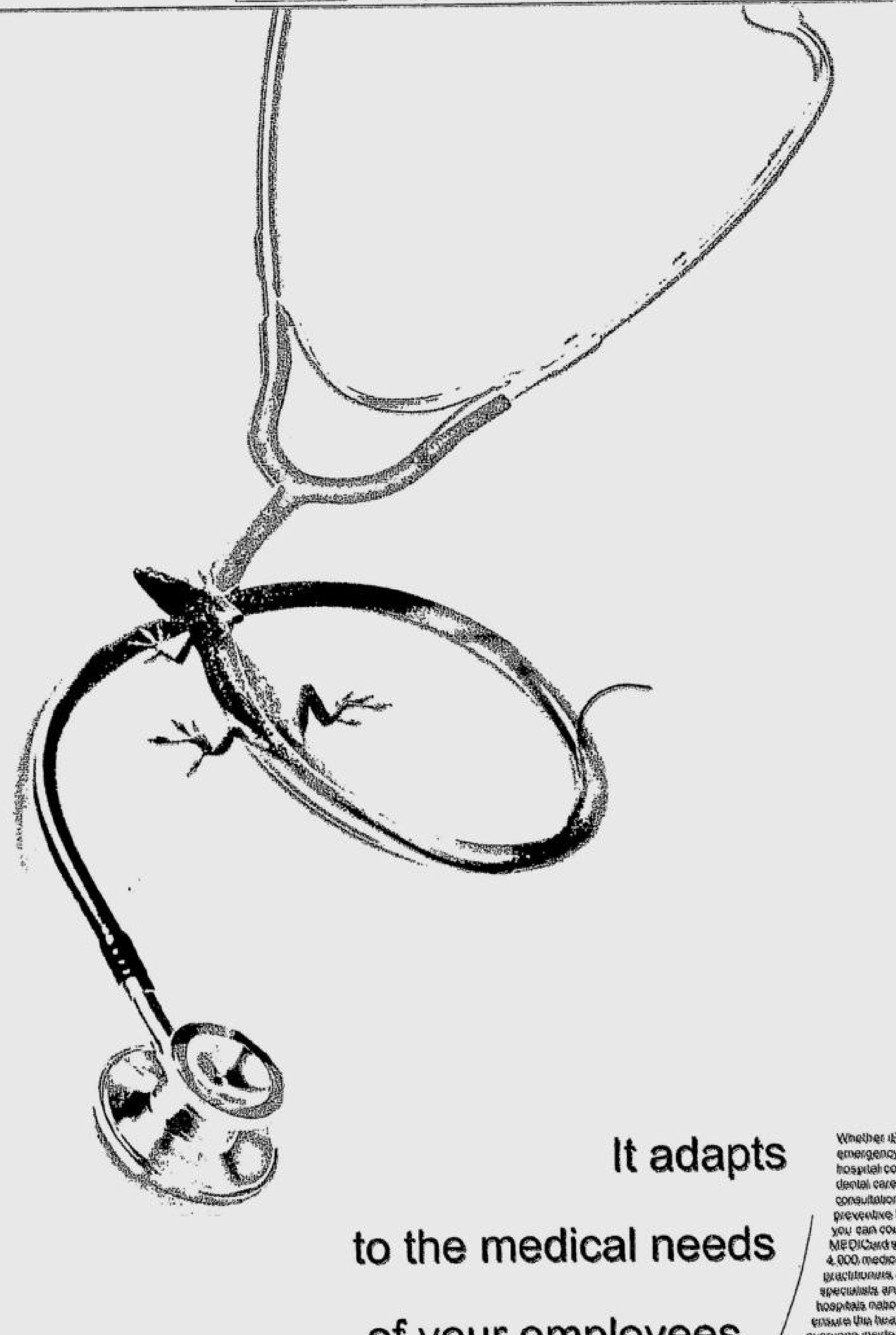


The van graphics design features a family with their hospitalized father and his attending doctor. In-house talents were employed as models for the design: the doctor, portrayed by the HMO's medical director, Dr. Nicky Montoya; the father portrayed by Glennford Mirasol, Sr. Manager for RMD; and mother by Veronica Edades, Asst. Manager for Laboratory. The picture also features Ms. Edades' son, Kevin and the daughter of Dr. Cesar Ocampo, MEDICard H.O. Clinic doctor, Francine Antoinette.

Another version of the transit ad shows a chameleon beside a stethoscope enveloped in various rainbow-like colors. The chameleon, a species of lizards that are known for its ability to change its hue and blend with its surroundings, has become MEDICard's symbol for its corporate thrust, flexibility—flexibility in being able to custom-build healthcare programs based on the different needs of its clients. This attribute is emphasized more by the company with the symbolic rainbow-like colors and associated with the medical profession by the stethoscope.







It adapts

to the medical needs

of your employees

Whether it's emergency care, hospital confinement, dental care, out-patient consultation treatment or preventive health care, you can count on MEDICard's more than 4,000 medical practitioners and specialists and over 300 hospitals nationwide to ensure the health of everyone inside your office.

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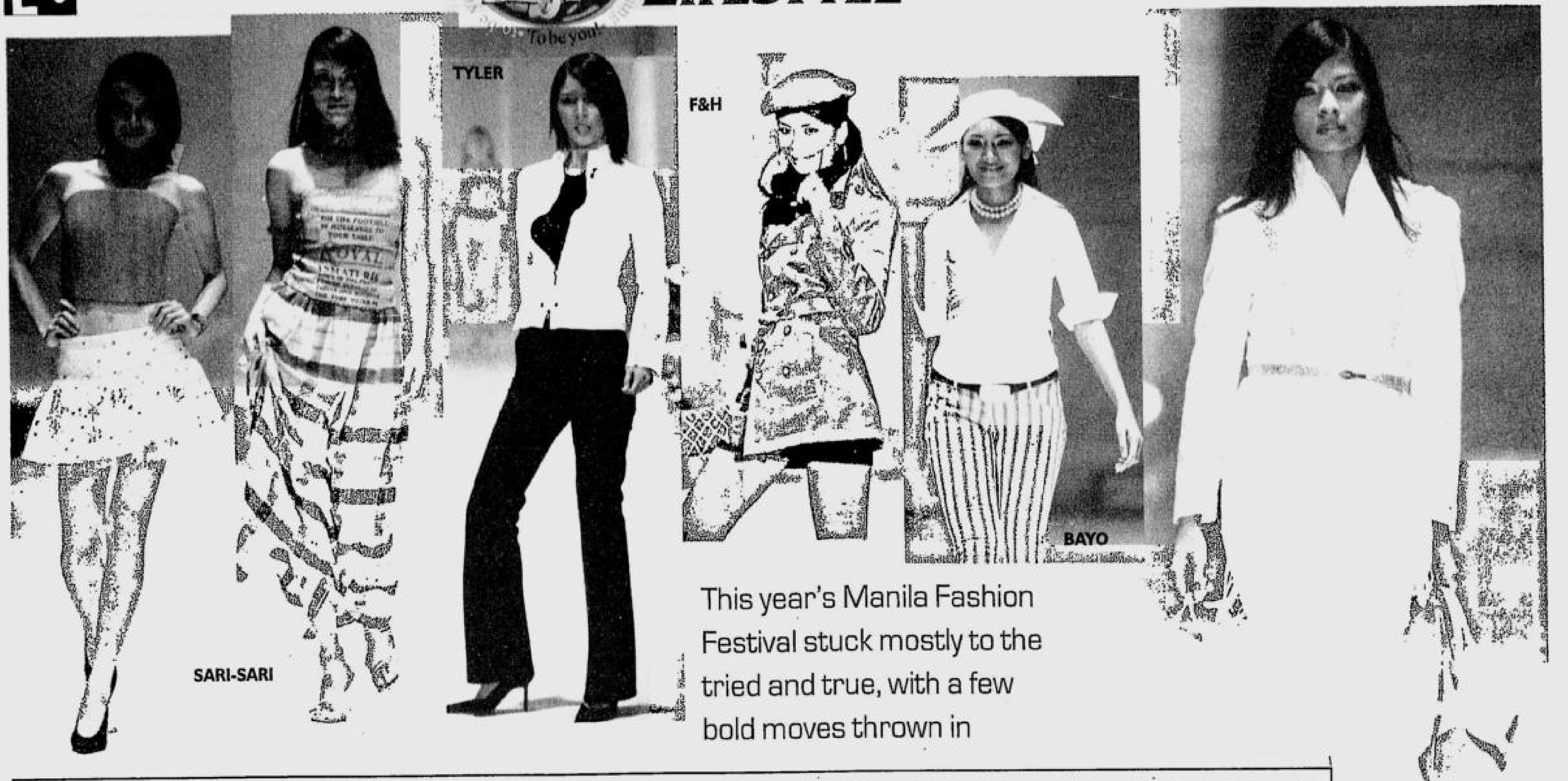

This year's Manila Fashion Festival stuck mostly to the tried and true, with a few bold moves thrown in

Flurry of fashion under one tent

By Anne Rose Elicaño, Tiffany Limsico and Happy David
2bU! Correspondents

IT'S easy to get lost in a sea of Mango and Top Shop-clad fashion victims, but it takes more aplomb and verve to make the most out of what the local fashion scene can offer us. So here's a quick roundup of the highlights (and low points) of this year's Manila Fashion Festival, a gathering of some of the best local retailers today under one NBC tent.

Bayo, Filipino and proud

The '50s-inspired collection was introduced by JM Rodriguez and endorser Nicole Hernandez doing a quick Ilonggo repartee.

Here's what we saw:

- Tops that droop and flow, loosely matched with shorts and skirts with shorter hemlines, have a laidback, sexy appeal. Bayo's new line accentuates lean frames and long legs.
- Hints of orientalia-inspired pieces like the linen-like tops with loop and knot closures.
- Vintage sunglasses sported by the models can be a novel yet stylish accessory to basic outfits. Do we sense a comeback for vintage eyewear?
- A full, flouncy skirt in black satin on Raya Mananquil and her bunch of red balloons was a standout, although most of the collection is classic Bayo with clean and fresh lines perfect for long summer afternoons.

Nafnaf, Seventeen Jeune Campagnie (SJC) for Cinderella

- The urban safari look is just right for the rainy season that's starting to creep in.
- There isn't really anything new in the collection. People were already sporting trench coats and fur-lined jackets last year. Same goes with the Avril Lavigne-inspired tie over shirts style and striped knee socks in pumps. But these were spotted in another collection as well, so does this mean we're late bloomers, fashion-wise?
- They should've used British India instead.

U Rustan's

Salt by Rustan's

You know what they said about brown being the new black—as a shade that goes well with everything? Forget that. Green is the new black. It makes guys look fresher and girls more vibrant.

Note: Salt is an in-house Rustan's locally designed men's line.

U Rustan's

The U-Girl collection from Hindy Weber-Tantoco shows that clothing can be stylish and functional at the same time, with detachable pouches and bags made part of the outfits in neutral palettes (nuances of white, beige), just perfect for the modern urbanite (which is also the title of the collection). The clothes were intentionally kept in a blank canvas-like state to invite the wearers to individualize the pieces by painting, embroidering or beading them to their liking.

Their interpretation of the recroppable pants was a standout. Other brand collections that carried cropped pants looked very similar to each other. But U-Girls' version, in white, looked different each time it changed lengths from regular long pants to short shorts.

The belt bag of the '80s is reinvented so that it is now sleeker and more fashionable. This is sexy utilitarianism, a fashion oxymoron if there was one.

U-Boy by Dennis Lustico

Quirky and fun! The boys' clothes had little details here and there that didn't scream for attention but definitely caught our eye. The colors are a welcome change from the usual dull palette of men's fashion, reminiscent of designer Paul Smith who gave importance to both color and simplicity.

Many of the other brands didn't have noticeable accessory pieces, but U-Boy's did. Their stylist just used two pieces—the blue cascade bead necklace that tapered into a V and the Dyed Coco coin bead multi-strand necklace and match bracelet in brown. It added spice to the already hot collection, without trying to look too *pilit*.

Freeway

The show was introduced by G Tongi, their new image model, in an outfit reminiscent of a Kylie Minogue music video costume. Sleek, white, complete with the hood—it could've looked classy and designed by Tom Ford if it didn't have a criss-crossy back.

FREEWAY

It was supposedly a glamorous collection inspired by Sao Paulo, Brazil, Argentina, and other Latin places. And it could've worked, if only they had tempered it a bit.

Rissa Samson's white suit outfit looked so good it looked out of place in the collection. It looked like it came from another hot Spanish line.

Folded & Hung

In their men's and women's collection, we have but one quibble: Is this a collection that actually takes into account the weather here in the Philippines? There were glorious coats, jackets, turtlenecks and rabbit fur which are useless in this sweltering heat. Even with the rainy season, we would still need a passport and a SARS-free world to wear them.

The collection did not look so pulled together, unlike their fabulous Venezia street show whose styling we haven't forgotten.

Sari-Sari Store

Flowing skirts inspired by traditional Filipino prints have never looked this good. However, there isn't really anything new in the Sari-Sari Store collection.

Kudos for the lovely accompaniment by the Akafellas.

Tyler

Tyler had the most inspired designs among all the clothing lines. One model after another came out lip-synching to Elton John's "Your Song," draped in clothing that was intelligent and understated. If you want to be the coolest person at any social event, Tyler is the way to go because while everyone is in bright florals or orientalia, you remain elegant but not stuck-up, minimalist but never boring.

Other notes

Women's line palette—black, white, brass-colored zipper details were strategically placed on the outfits; the men's collections were mostly in camel.

Men's line—Strikingly simple outfits were given a little more detail with thin obi sash-like belts with clean origami-like knotting on the waist or asymmetrically over the chest.

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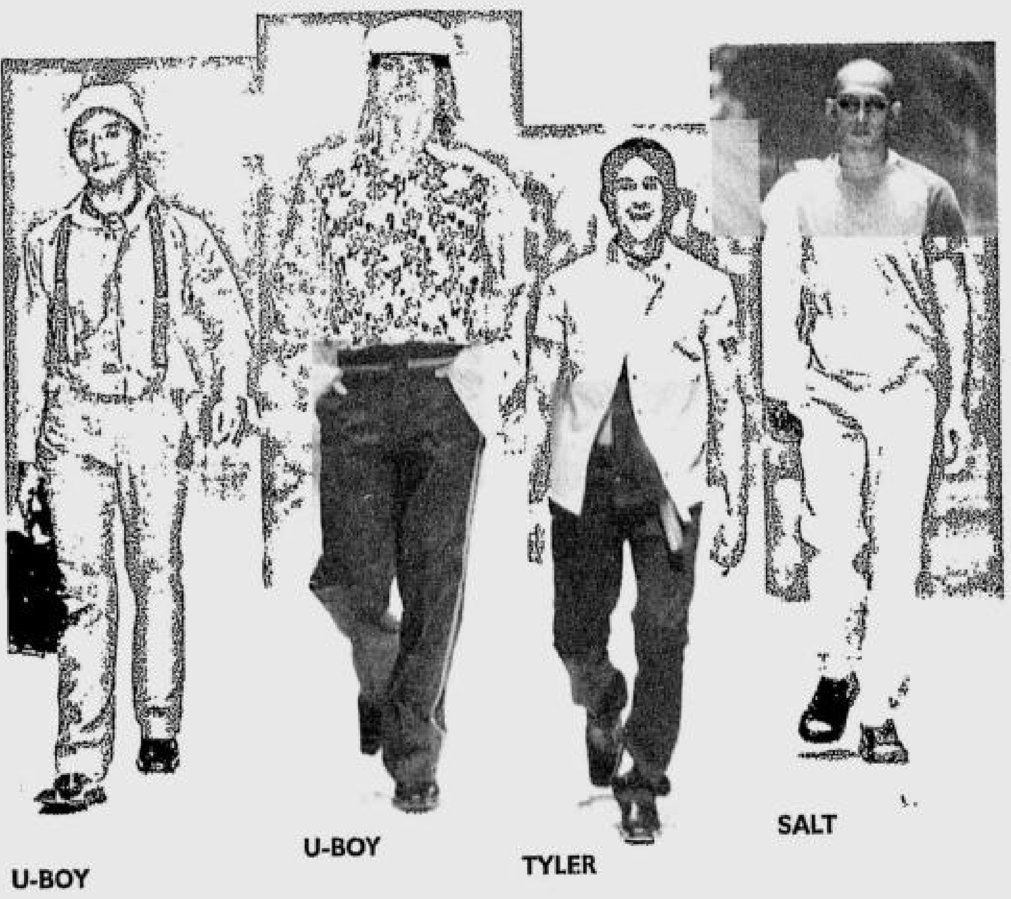

Congratulations to MEDICard from

EXCELLENCE
THE PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE

"IN EVERYTHING WE DO, WE MUST STRIVE FOR PERFECTION."
-AMBASSADOR ALFONSO T. YUCHENGCO

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It is our adherence to standards no less than ideal that moves us to seek and develop innovative banking ideas. To go beyond mere customer satisfaction, and respond creatively to every client need.

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